



SEPTEMBER 1986

ISSUE NO. 13

Many people have asked about the Fan Q Awards as presented this year at MediaWest*Con VI. Below are a listing of this year's winners:

STAR WARS

Zine: WOOKIEE COMMODE #2
Writer: Mary Jean Holmes, "Fire of the Mind", SHADOWSTAR
Artist: Karen River
Poet: Jacqueline Taero

STAR TREK

Zine: no award
Writer: Syn Ferguson, COURTS OF HONOR
Artist: Caren Parnes
Poet: no award

OTHER MEDIA

Zine: STEELE FILES
Writer: Anne Elizabeth Zeek and Sara Campbell, "Wolf at the Gate", WARPED SPACE
Artist: Karen River
Poet: Martie Benedict

Any member of MediaWest*Con may nominate and vote on the Fan Q Awards. To answer other questions about how one goes about nominating/voting for someone, etc., I quote from the MediaWest follow-up report:

"To ensure that enough interest in a category exists to justify it making the ballot, guidelines have been set up for adding or deleting categories without involving a meeting at MediaWest*Con itself. An individual nominee must have 3 nominations to be considered eligible for the ballot. (This does not mean that 3 nominations automatically gets an item on the ballot; you need 3 to even be considered.) The top 5 eligible nominees will make the ballot. In addition, a category must have 3 nominees to make the final ballot. If a category does not receive 3 nominees, the people who were nominated under that category will be moved into the "general" category, and compete for a space on the ballot there. In this manner, the categories in which interest has flagged will drop off, and new cate-

gories could be added quickly if enough interest is shown. (Examples would include a possible newsletter category, if enough interest is shown to fill above criteria--or zines or stories in a "new" fandom, that may come and go in the course of a year in a blaze of publishing glory.)

"Nominations will close April 1, 1987. Anything published in 1986 will be eligible, and I will accept nominations starting January 1, 1987. Letters will be sent to those who are being considered for the final ballot, and a postcard will be included for their replies. The postcard is to allow them to accept or decline nomination. If I do not hear from them by April 15, 1987, I will assume that they decline nomination. Receiving a postcard will not automatically mean that you are on the final ballot, because I will have to allow for some people declining nomination.

"Non-MediaWest*Con members can still vote by sending \$1 with either their nomination or their vote. (If you send in \$1 to nominate, you don't need to send an additional \$1 to vote.)"

Anyone having questions can write to:

Kim Dyer
4656 Wilcox
Holt, MI 48842

or call her at (517) 694-2006. She does not accept collect calls and, if she needs to call you back long distance, she will call you collect. Enclose a SASE with all inquiries.

FAN Q
AWARD



An Interview With Harrison Ford

Transcribed by Carolyn Golledge

TERRY WILLESEE TONIGHT, Channel 7, Sydney, Australia
Monday, April 26, 1986, 7:00 p.m.

TW: "Movie industry observers say we are witnessing the emergence of a major filmmaking team. Australian director Peter Weir and American actor Harrison Ford are at work on another movie following the success and Oscar nominations of the movie *WITNESS*. Weir and Ford have been slogging away in the jungles of Belize, in Central America, since February, on a film apparently aptly named *MOSQUITO COAST*. TWT and our correspondent, Mark O'Brien, caught up with Weir, Ford and the crew on their return to the United States."

On location in Rome, Georgia

Weir: (See outside through the window of Allie Fox's home.) "I don't live here, and I haven't entered the way of life, if you like, I'm still an outsider, making pictures."

O'Brien: "Is it easy to work as an outsider, do you think?"

Weir: "Well, it keeps your eye fresh, I think." (A scene is shown being filmed. Ford comes in to the kitchen wearing grimy gray coveralls, goes to the sink, pours himself a glass of water and downs it while waving a dismissive hand at his "wife" who is saying, "Boy, he was sure mad about something! Cooling systems..." Ford replies with, "Wait'll he sees what I've got out there." Goes and hugs his wife.)

Scene switches to an interview with Ford: "Well, I always think the last thing I've done is the hardest thing I've ever done. (laughs) So I suppose it's easily the most complex kind of characterization that I've ever played. I think."

O'Brien (narrating): Harrison Ford plays Allie Fox, a handy-man-inventor on the plantation. He decides to take his family to Central America to create a jungle paradise, but things don't go to plan."

Weir: "A fantastic tale, I think, of ordinary people from an ordinary setting like this, in a western country, in this case rural United States, who go on a fantastic adventure, really, to a very remote part of the world, and cope with all the physical dangers and the kind of stresses between relationships in a family. But it's such a rollicking story, such a powerful, driving narrative, that I'm letting it tell itself really, and sticking to the story, which I think's always the wisest way to go anyway."

O'Brien (narrating): "The movie is now in its final stages, but this is the first day of shooting in the United States."

Weir: "It's a very challenging part, because it's a very complex man on the one hand who is also a very ordinary man on the other. When you've got those interesting contradictions in a character it

makes for a good character but it makes it difficult for director and actor to find that exactly right note." (Background scene of Weir and Ford discussing and laughing together.)

Ford: "He's great. I don't want him to know it, but I think he's great. He's terrific. We've, of course, enjoyed working together or we wouldn't be doing it now. We have a good time."

O'Brien: "In what areas does Peter Weir excell as a director?"

Ford: "Probably in the most necessary area, in overall concept, in vision, in having a particular and cogent point of view to present. He's also very good at working with actors, he's a very good editor, he chooses music very intelligently."

O'Brien: "Weir and Ford were delighted to be told in the jungles of Central America that they'd been nominated for Academy Awards for their film, *WITNESS*. But winning prizes is not one of their priorities."

Weir: "I mean it depends on your attitude to Academy Awards and other prizes. I mean, it's very nice to be nominated, but I don't think it's something one goes chasing, you know. Try not to think about it, really."

Ford: "I didn't really expect to get nominated. I don't think *WITNESS* is really even the kind of film that usually gets those awards. You're under pressure to make the best possible movie you can make, and that's the pressure I feel. I don't feel the pressure of success, really, ever."

Weir: "The future as far as movies? Nothing. I'm just going to take a break after this one. I think. Do a bit of living, stock up on ordinary life."



The [★]

swzinelibrary

* A LONG TIME AGO...
NOIDS 'N' DROIDS
A GALAXY IN FLAMES
A NEW CHALLENGE
A SW BIBLIOGRAPHY [★]
AGAINST THE SITH
ALDERAAN
ARCHEOLOGY 101 [★]
BASERINES
BAYSTAR
BEST OF EMPIRE STAR
CARBONITE MANEUVER
COMBINING FORCES [★]
COMLINK
CONTRABAND
COSMIC LANDSCAPES
CROSSED SABERS [★]
DARK INTERLUDE
DARK LORD [★]
DATAZINE [★]
DRAGON'S HOARD [★]
DEC WARS
DOCKING BAY
EMPIRE REVIEW
ENTERPRISING FALCON
EQUAL SPACE
ERRANTRY [★]
ESPER! [★]
EVOLUTION OF A REBEL
FALCON'S FLIGHT
FANFARING
FANTASY FLIGHT [★]
FAR REALMS
THE FORCE
FORTUNE AND GLORY
GALACTIC FLIGHT
THE GOPHER ZINE
GRIP
GUARDIAN [★]
HOTH OR BUST
HYDROSPANNER ZERO
HYPERSPACE
ILLUMINATIONS [★]
IMPERIUM
JEDI JOURNAL
JEDI QUARTERLY
JEDI RIDDLE [★]
JEREMY BULLOCK FC [★]
JUNDLAND WASTES
KESSEL RUN
KNIGHT OF SHADOWS
LANDSPEEDER
LASERGRAM [★]
LEGENDS OF LIGHT
LIGHT SABER
THE LIGHTER SIDE OF
THE FORCE
THE LOST JEDIS
LUCASFANS [★]
LUMINOUS BEINGS
MASIFORM D
MAY THE FORCE BE
WITH YOU [★]
MILLENNIUM [★]
MOONBEAM
MOS EISLEY CHRONICLE
NERPHERDER'S [★]
COMPANION
NEWS OF THE REBELLION
OLD REPUBLIC READER
ON THE MARK
PEGASUS [★]
PHOENIX
REGEI ALLIANCE
REC ROOM RHYMES
RELUCTANT REBEL
THE RETURN [★]
RETURN TO SW
REVENGE OF THE JEDI
ROGUE'S GALLERY
SAREN WALLWALKER
SCOUNDREL
SHADOWSTAR [★]
SHOOTING STAR
SHOWCASE PRESENTS
SKYWALKER
SONS & DAUGHTERS OF
THE FORCE
SPACE: HAPPY [★]
SPIRIT [★]
STAR JOURNEYS
SW FANZINE INDEX
SW FILKSONGS [★]
STAR WERES
STARWINGS
STORM [★]
SYNDIZINE [★]
TAOOINE TRIBUNE
TAUNTAUN EXPRESS
THUNDERBOLT [★]
TIME WARP [★]
TIME FRAME
TRACKLESS VOIDS
TEXINDEX, 3 SUP., VOL 1
TWIN SUNS
VISIONS
VOICE OF THE EMPEROR
WARPED SPACE
THE WHILLS
WELL OF THE SOULS [★]

Forceful greetings from the First Terran Enclave!

As you may have heard, Lucasfilms, Ltd., has closed the Official Star Wars Fan Club as an in-house organization. During the packing-up of the OSWFC offices, a library of "Star Wars" and mixed-media fanzines was identified as surplus and "scheduled to be terminated."

The First Terran Enclave submitted a proposal for the preservation of the fanzines which included the non-profit administration of a fannish lending library and a plan for ultimate donation of the entire collection intact to the library of a university or state college. This proposal, once accepted, became the charter document for the Star Wars Lending Library (to begin circulation January 1, 1987). A copy of the charter document is available to all for an SASE.

Please scan the list of zine titles at the left margin of this sheet. We would like to obtain the permission of the editors to include their zine in the Fanzine Lending Library for circulation. We've already sent a copy of this letter to all the editors for whom we have current addresses, and we need to hear from anyone who has not received her copy. Participation is optional, of course — if an editor prefers, her zine will not be circulated in any form, while it will still be included in the Library for the purposes of donation. Naturally, too, any additional titles published that an editor may wish to contribute to the Lending Library would be more than welcome, and will be included in the donation of the library to its final home.

We really hope everyone will participate in the Star Wars Fanzine Lending Library. No-one is going to make any money off this and we will be prepared to prove it. Nor are we going to violate the right of an editor to terminate circulation of her zine. But we're counting on fanzine editors nation-wide to realize that the existence of this library can be a significant resource for all fans, neofans, poor fans, any fan with no other hope to ever read an out-of-print zine.

We want this library to provide a needed service. we're looking forward to your support!

The Force will be with you — always.



for the First Terran Enclave:

Ellen Blackshear • Bev Clark • DJ Driscoll • Steve Gallacci • Jim Hill
June Hill • Carol Jones • Signe Landon • Maggie Nowakowska
Susan Matthews • Robin White

* * Donated by Maureen Garrett for the enjoyment of all fans *
* and for the preservation of the creativity that is the heart of fandom *
* *

There are movie fans, and then there are fen

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Welcome to Fantasyland, boys and girls.

No, we're not viewing Walt Disney's dream-world in Anaheim. This one's in East Lansing, tucked into the Lansing Hilton Inn.

That's right: We're returning to MediaWestCon, the multimedia convention visited last year by the Cutting Room's intrepid columnist.

Even for someone who's gone through the drill before, it's a tad unsettling to spend Memorial Day weekend rubbing elbows or light sabers with Luke Skywalker, cruising through packs of lizardly visitors from the late-series "V" and dodging an assortment of Dr. Whos.

Down the winding hallways to your room you're apt to walk into a gun battle between the Imperial troops and the Rebel Alliance. If you're lucky, neither side is taking prisoners.

Even away from the hotel, you can spot a MediaWester. At Denny's, a favorite muncheon spot for budget-minded fen (the fannish plural for fan), the waiting-for-tables line includes a large woman in an "Airwolf" outfit, two younger females whose heads are bedecked with spangly dee-lie-bobbers, and a quartet wearing identical wine satin "Remington Steele" jackets.

There are conventions, and there are conventions. MediaWest is a smallish one — about 500 people. It's billed as being run by fans, for fans — and it leans toward heavy-duty partying.

Given all the Jedi knights, Indiana Joneses and medieval damsels wandering through the halls, the sight of a couple in full formal contemporary dress is unnerving. Not to worry, though: They're en route to the Remington Steele Soiree (by reservation only).

The folks wearing bathrobes and carrying towels are heading for Arthur Dent's Tea Party. (Dent, for those of you ignorant of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," was launched into space before he'd managed to get dressed). Those in trenchcoats are ferreting out the Spies Like Us Affair/U.N.C.L.E. party.



the cutting room floor

linda billington

But all is not frivolity at MediaWest. Take the seminars. A sampling of titles indicates the depth of thought and seriousness of content:

- "Is That a Gun in Your Holster or Are You Just Glad to See Me" (Romantic detective teams are hot topics.)

- "A Consumer's Guide to Smut" (This one was so packed that the Cutting Room couldn't get in — sorry.)

- "I Told My Dog 'Heel' and He Bit My Foot" (Many pets — dogs, cats, even ferrets — come to MediaWest.)

- "You Do What? Explaining Fandom to the Mundanes" (This is a matter of considerable interest to fen whose friends look askance at their "Buckaroo Banzai" headbands. A mundane, in cast you can't guess, is you, if you're not a fan.)

A major event at every MediaWest is the Saturday-night costume competition. We're talking heavy-duty costuming here.

Diana, the mouse-eating villainess from "V," parades her wedding outfit, a silver bodysuit covered with scales, topped by silver cape and hood. An alien catwoman's feline features are highlighted by blue satin robes and an intricate rhinestone headdress. A sorceress turns up in an appliqued and embroidered gown, a vampire queen

in extreme decolletage, and two young men in nothing but bandages — portraying all the injuries Harrison Ford has sustained in his films.

Also on the MediaWest agenda this year is a preview of science fiction and fantasy films forthcoming from 20th Century Fox. PR man Terry Erdmann gives the song and dance. Some excerpts:

- "The Manhattan Project" (opening here Friday) stars John Lithgow as a scientist who inadvertently "helps" a high-schooler build a portable atom bomb. The bomb in the film, Erdmann says, was assembled from parts found in the average bedroom and at Radio Shack. It was authentic except for three items: two little contact points, and the required dose of plutonium. (I don't think Radio Shack carries that stuff.)

- "Aliens," the long-awaited sequel to "Alien," stars (again) Sigourney Weaver as Ripley, the sole human survivor of the ill-fated spacecraft Nostromo. Erdmann screens a series of short film clips that look great and reveal absolutely nothing. But he does offer a little preview:

At the beginning of the film, which opens July 18, the flash-frozen Ripley is discovered and revived, only to discover that she's been asleep for 57 years. Now nobody believes her story about a monster that killed her fellow crew members — and meanwhile, the alien's home planet has been colonized . . .

There's a lot more to MediaWest, and by the end of the long weekend the energy level is noticeably low. In the hotel restaurant Monday afternoon, a bleary-eyed woman wrestles with the bill of fare. Finally she throws it down and announces, "How to keep a sleeping fan awake: Try to open a one-page menu."

Another MediaWest bites the dust.

Linda Billington, Daily News arts editor, writes weekly on movies.

From The Writer magazine, August, 1986:

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the winners of the 1986 Edgar Allan Poe Awards which included "Best Motion Picture: 'Witness', by Earl W. Wallace and William Kelley, from a story by William Kelley, Pamela Wallace, and Earl W. Wallace (Paramount); and "'The Amazing Falsworth' (from 'Amazing Stories'), by Mick Garris, from a story by Steven Spielberg (NBC-TV)."



HARRISON: big tipper

EVEN he-man Harrison Ford quakes before the power of PAGE SIX. Downing a pre-curtain drink before catching *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* at the Plymouth, Harrison struck up a conversation with a waitress at a 45th Street

hotel bar. When the waitress offered him a second drink, on the house, he declined, said he had to catch the show, promised to be back at intermission, and stiffed her. When the actor returned as promised, the waitress reports: "I told him this wasn't the UN and that we expected to be tipped. And if he didn't, I was going to call PAGE SIX and denounce him." Harrison immediately whipped out a \$20 bill and slapped it on the counter: "Fifteen is for you and five is to not talk about me," he said. The waitress, who did not want to be identified, called us first thing yesterday.

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AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

Carrie Fisher's not publicizing it, but she's aspiring to a writing career.

Besides some recent magazine pieces, she's penning a book of what her agent calls "human comedy fiction pieces" for Simon & Schuster, due out in 1987. And she's been deep in negotiation with ABC to write a pilot episode for a sitcom that Buck Henry would write and exec produce.

Her agent told us the deal was "just closed." But ABC (at press time) said firmly that "nothing's firm'd up" and negotiations are continuing. —From John M. Wilson

WHEELER DEALERS

A friend of Outtakes hears that Cannon has offered Harrison Ford \$10 million (!) to star in the bike-racing "The Yellow Jersey," about a contender in the prestigious Tour de France.

Neither Cannon nor Ford's rep would respond to calls about the long bandied-about project, which has cycled through the studios—and stars (including Dustin Hoffman and Scott Glenn)—for some dozen years. Producers John Veitch and Gary Mehlman are now in France prepping the picture, which still awaits a director and a star. They're reportedly filming second-unit footage during the Tour, currently under way.

—From Pat H. Broeske

ART CREDITS

Judith Low -- Mastheads
Carol Peters -- 2, 18
Sandi Jones -- 12
Cheree Cargill -- 13
Ronda Henderson -- 36

notices

Equal space will be offered for replies.

From:

Strelsau Press
c/o Regina Gottesman
100 West 94 Street
New York, NY 10025

STRELSAU PRESS is once again extremely backlogged (the demands of a mundane world!) and, for that reason, I am again asking for your patience. I will be in contact shortly (I hope) with everyone who has written asking about order status, the whereabouts of their zines, etc. All correspondence that I've received is in a "to be answered NOW" file ("NOW" seems to require a great deal of flexibility, however!), and everyone will be answered.

For the time being, I am also removing MASCARADA from the "available zine" listings and the zine will be available only at conventions until such time as I can straighten out backorders and get the press back on a regular footing. It is NOT sold out, and all who have ordered will be receiving their notifications/copies.

DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD and ERRANTRY 2 are no longer in print (except for unfilled backorders with whom I have already corresponded). Once these backorders are filled, any extras will be used to fill additional mail orders already received in order of date of receipt or will be available at conventions only--there are not enough to advertise and sell by mail.

As I stated before, KNIGHT'S LADY has been cancelled. I realize that refunds have not been received and, again, apologize; these, too, are in the above file, and you should be hearing shortly.

Any other problems or correspondence requiring special attention will also be answered. Please, however, be patient. I know it's a lot to ask, but I want to get this straightened out as much as you do--I share an apartment and you'd be surprised how much room can be eaten up by inventory.

FROM:

Cheree Cargill
457 Meadowhill Drive
Garland, TX 75043

This is a general announcement regarding the publications of Falcon Press. Due to financial considerations and lack of time, I am forced to slow the zine schedule down considerably. I have recently received a promotion at work into a managerial position, something I've worked long and hard to achieve. However, all the attendant responsibilities inherent in the job descended long before the position was official. This has already been noticeable in the lateness of some issues of SE. I'm finding myself with less and less time to do it. This does not mean an end to SE at all. I will attempt to get it out on schedule as long as I'm able to do so.

However, somethin's gotta give and the bigger zines are it. It has become impossible to do a quarterly newsletter and two full-size zines a year.

Financially, I am still in debt for TREMOR #3 and SE#12. SE will have to go to a less expensive format until that debt is paid off. I cannot and will not print another large zine until that debt is paid off in full. SE itself runs around \$500 an issue to print, not counting postage, which usually comes out of my own pocket.

Therefore, CHOICE PARTS may be delayed until the spring--I can't tell yet. A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #4 will be pushed back even further. If finances permit, I will certainly publish as early as possible. However, the bottom line of all this is that I can only afford to publish if the zines pay for themselves. This year, they haven't and I must clear the red ink before placing myself in debt again.



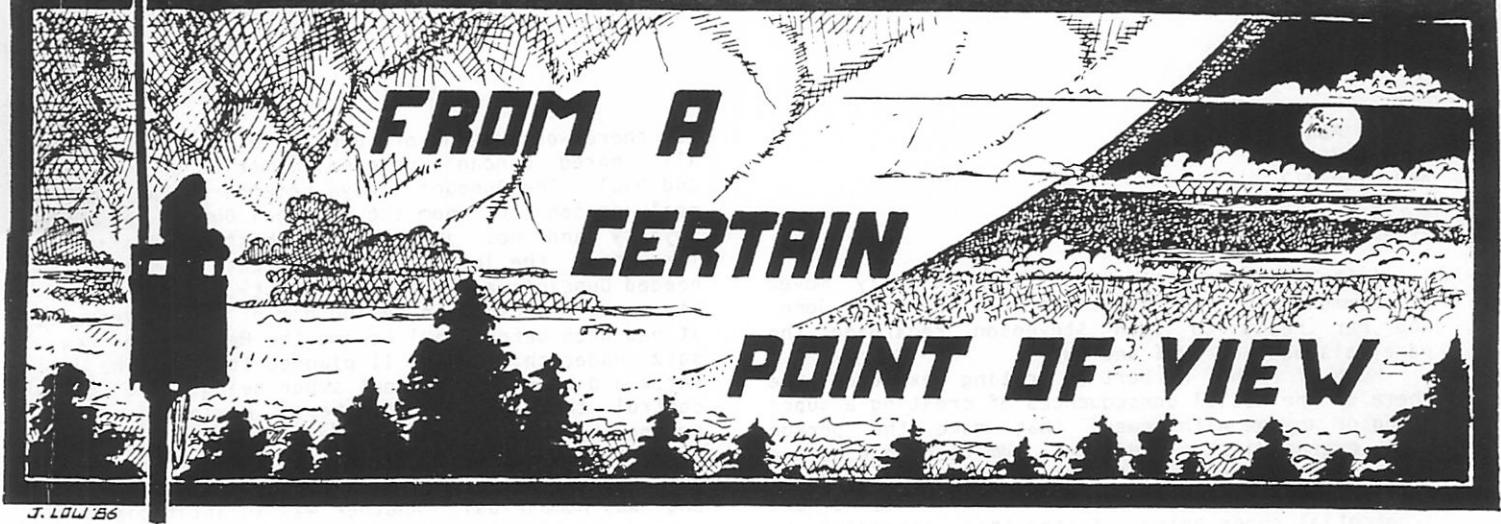
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out.

Deadline for #14 -- November 1, 1986

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J. LOW '86

Ming Wathne
437 Via Roma
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

May 30, 1986

Well, just finished reading my first issue of SE. Being a neo-fan in zinedom and a neo-neo to the letterzine world, I feel a little like the lady who started to tiptoe across a puddle and found herself up to her ears in a pond. I have no idea what I am doing, but I am going to try.

Concerning the Clones--In the SW universe we are never given a clear idea whether the Clones are the product of accelerated growth, or the more conventional growth rate. If these beings are force grown until maturity, they have probably lost the tremendous learning power of the infant and pre-adolescent. In no way could these Clones ever be mistaken for normal individuals. It is not a question of intelligence. It seems to be a question of relationship to environment. We have had a few examples in our own universe where children have been raised by animals. Regardless of the theoretic intelligence possibilities, these children do not learn to communicate, or react in a human way regardless of how well they are nurtured and instructed. Genetically, they are human, but the foundation of their lives have made them something else. Clones would react with their Clone brothers, to the beings they understand. This type of Clone was probably the troopers of the wars. They were made in mass quantities and were simply the throwaway fighters of the Clone Wars.

If you had a group of Clones that matured at the natural rate regardless of the number that were manufactured from the same matrix cells, you would still be dealing with individuals since no two persons ever experience exactly the same thing regardless of how closely they are raised. The pressures of experience will always make a difference. The Clone who has been hurt in a fall will be more cautious than his brother who has not.

As for the cloning of oneself to carry on as president, etc., you are postulating a natural maturing clone from a mature individual. This again means differences in upbringing and environment. Again, a good example might be a clone of Darth Vader. Vader was a Jedi and fought in the wars, his clone would know only what he had heard of the Jedi and grow up after the wars. Vader saw Luke as his son; Vader's clone could only have seen Luke as possibly a brother, more likely as a rival.

Given the above parameters, it would make sense that only the accelerated Clones were an actuality.

The universe was simply flooded with a continually renewed source of disposable fighters. The war was finally won only when the matrix vats were destroyed.

Now, Mickey Malkin, et al: Han in the xmas stocking--The line forms to the left, girl, and in reverse order of the alphabet!

Tim Blaes: Ben and the exact truth--How would you tell a very young, very idealistic man that his father was the second greatest villain in the universe? Especially a young man who had obviously fantasized about his father? Ben did not exactly lie; he just avoided the truth.

Sally Syrjala: Vader was no double agent. He just did not see the use in blowing away a world he might someday rule, and he still had hopes of getting the location of the main base from Leia, given time. As for Han, Vader was simply covering all bases. If the freezing did not kill Han, he could still be used as bait if Skywalker managed to escape. The only real question is why Vader did not do this?

Marlene Karkoska: Would be very interesting to know just what relationship existed between Luke and Owen. No one seems to know for sure.

Think you are right about a story idea from Marcia Brin about who Han's daddy is--Anakin or Vader, if they are two different people.

About the lightsaber debate. I believe the point here is that anyone could turn the thing on, but only a Force sensitive could actually activate the blade. (Guess it is easy enough to figure what I think of Han.)

Carolyn Golledge: When Luke rescued Leia, it was completely logical. He really had come with Ben originally because he had seen the holo of Leia.

Maggie Nowakowska: If you and Mickey are interested in geography, I live north of Southern California, south of Northern California, and as far west as you can go without getting your feet wet. Also, if you are driving along the coast, you must go east and west in our town in order to go north and south along the coast. And I am a great deal farther away from cons than either one of you.

Oh-oh, well, it seems where learning comes in, the animal children example is going to show up. I had not read your letter when I did my statement on the Clones, but the same reasoning is very valid for the Jedi use of the Force. I do think, however, that many people could use it in unconscious ways.

Enough, Cheree, I would be here for another two weeks trying to comment on all the goodies in this issue. Just say I enjoyed my first tiptoe in a letterzine.

Margie Abadie
PO Box 7652
APO NY 09012

June 3, 1986

After months of reading SE, I am finally moved to comment on some issues in SE#11 by Sandi Jones and her reply to Jean Stevenson regarding the parallels between DUNE and SW.

Much of Frank Herbert's writing explores the theme of the social consequences of creating a super being or anyone with powers that make the person seem extraordinary. Herbert admitted that he was fascinated with the ramifications of having a "Hitler--an infallible leader." Now, in Luke, we have a potential super being. I know that according to history in the SW universe, the Jedi were not capricious gods, but the fact is there are no checks and balances on Luke now the way there would have been in the Jedi order. I suppose he will answer only to himself. That is one reason why "fallen Luke" stories interest me. I see parallels in Luke's future and Paul Atreides' past.

First, I advise that anyone reading the DUNE series should have a copy of THE DUNE ENCYCLOPEDIA by Dr. Willis E. McNelly within arm's reach. Especially important are pp. 89-96 which deal with the nature of Paul's super abilities and the critical errors he made.

Paul Atreides was a failure. He was a noble failure, though. Paul was pretending to be a god because he felt it was the best way to bring justice to the universe. The first three books of the series detail the catastrophe caused by Paul's use of his powers. The last three books tell how Paul's son Leto II tried to undo the damage caused by his father's well-meaning attempt to fulfill what he considered to be his "destiny."

There are parallels between Paul's and Luke's family backgrounds. They both have a sister. Paul's sister Alia is not his twin, and she had special powers of a different nature. Eventually, Paul is murdered by his sister's fanatic followers. Would Luke and Leia become enemies if each sensed the other was becoming a threat? The story "Revenant" by Anne Elizabeth Zeek is a good example of this theme. In the DUNE universe, the Anakin/Vader persona is actually two separate people. Duke Leto/Baron Harkonnen are Paul's Father/Grandfather. His noble father died while a prisoner of his evil grandfather much the way Vader "murders" Anakin. Paul's sister Alia also marries the Han-type character of Duncan Idaho. Later the evil Baron's persona takes possession of Alia, and she turns from good to evil like Anakin/Vader. Alia commits suicide before being brought to trial as an abomination.

I disagree that Duncan is the center of the DUNE series unless you think of it as merely a long adventure story. He does have an important role to play. Duncan Idaho the Prime is like Han in that he is a handsome, roughish ladies' man who is impulsive and acts rashly, a "laser brain". The original Duncan died protecting Paul from Imperial troopers which Duncan himself had led to Paul's hiding place. Duncan was the Atreides' swordmaster and had sworn loyalty to the House of Atreides beginning with Duke Leto I and then Paul. The first clone of Duncan was presented to Paul as a gift from the Spacing Guild and the Bene Tlielax. This was the Duncan who married Alia.

During the 3,500 year reign of Paul's son Leto

II, there were dozens of Duncan clones, but they all shared Duncan's original memories of Duke Leto and Paul. The Duncans always remembered Paul as a real person to whom the original Duncan had sworn loyalty and not just as an historical figure. Throughout the long centuries of Leto II's rule, he needed Duncan's ageless bond of duty, honor, morality and friendship to remind him of the universe as it had been before Paul became the Messiah or Kwisatz Haderach. Leto II planned to teach the universe a bitter lesson about super beings who could control the destiny of others. Having an archaic human like Duncan around provided Leto with some delightfully unpredictable moments.

However, the Duncan clones were all different. One was homosexual. Another was an artificial Kwisatz Haderach. Some tried to betray Leto II and plot his death. The last Duncan clone succeeded in killing Leto with the aid of a female Atreides descendant because this clone was able to give his allegiance to the Atreides' ideals rather than a living ruler of the House of Atreides. I cannot see Duncan Idaho as the center of the story because the original Duncan died before Paul's reign, and all the following Duncans were separate personalities.

Now, if you want another opinion of why SW was a blockbuster and DUNE flopped at the box office, it was absolutely totally humorless. After all, humor is one trait which separates humans from plants and most animals. When presenting SF to a general audience, you must establish a human bond between the audience and the characters. The SW characters used 20th century slang and mannerisms to help us identify with them. We felt we could relate to their behavior even if the plot of the movie was a new experience.

In DUNE, the characters seemed so inhumanly serious. That may be due to the fact that Herbert's desert Fremen were descendants of the nomadic people of the Middle East. Not much of a sense of humor there. The best selling pin-up poster in Libya right now features a picture of decapitated bodies! The Fremen were positively grim. Whenever I saw DUNE in a theater, the audience was so silent. No empathy. No cheers. In fact, I always felt like I should be on a kneeler as the final credits rolled by. When science fiction is presented so seriously, it truly becomes alien. This is not to say that I hated DUNE. I love the movie, but that is because I am mentally filling in all the dialogue and characterization that is missing.

Some colossal mistakes were made in filming DUNE. Unlike SW, the book came first. I am sure it is much easier to make a sensible novel from a movie than a sensible movie from a novel. Too much critical information was omitted. For one thing, they should have revealed that Paul was himself a Harkonnen. His mother Jessica was the Baron's daughter. Imagine the drama of having your grandfather murder your father and attempt to murder your mother and you. Then the Emperor's troops murdered Paul's infant son, and Paul dueled to the death with his Harkonnen cousin, Feyd. Four-year-old Alia gets the honor of executing her evil grandfather. The political intrigue and the chaos caused by these unknown family relationships should have been the core of the movie. The drama in SW came from the three year suspense of not knowing if Darth Vader was Luke's father, and what Luke would do if he was. Not to mention the "other" debate.

For another thing, the wrong emphasis was placed on the Messiah theme. Paul was irritated at the

whole Messiah bit. It wasn't a true prophecy. The Bene Gesserit had seeded the Messiah prophecy on every inhabited planet in the galaxy so that whenever the Kwisatz Haderach genetic program finally succeeded, the local population would follow him as a leader rather than waste him as a supernatural freak. It was a set-up. The atrocities committed in the name of Maud'Dib by his fanatic followers sickened him.

Unfortunately, the significant worm riding scene was unintentionally funny. Riding a sandworm was the Rite of Passage for 12-year-old Fremen boys. It humiliated Paul to be carried like a child into battle. Because he couldn't ride the worms between sietchs, it took days of walking to get anywhere. As a tactical commander, he had to learn the technique of worm riding or lose command. When Paul finally made his first ride, he did such a sloppy job that Stilgar reprimanded him, but at least he passed the test. More importantly, he was accepted as a true Fremen. The reason the worms did not roll over and crush the rider is that the hooks hold open the sensitive skin between the worm segments. The worm will not submerge or roll over while the hooks are in place because the sand irritates the delicate inner skin. The sandworms did not make a practice of hunting humans for food or spite. It was part of the mating ritual for the male to devour the female, hence the danger of making a rhythmic vibration similar to a female sandworm preparing a nest. Belief in the sandworms and ecology of Arrakis is crucial to the story. I wish it hadn't looked so idiotic in the film.

Luke and Paul started from the same point. Each wanted to avenge his father by killing the evil Vader/Baron and their mentors, Emperors Palpatine/Shaddam IV. Lacking an army of his own, Paul was using the Fremen to defeat the Harkonnens. The deal was that the Fremen would help put Paul on the Emperor's throne if he would use the resources of the Empire to turn the desert planet of their exile into a watery paradise. They could accomplish their dream in a matter of decades instead of centuries. Paul did not simply make it rain. That was made up.

Ironically, it was the Fremen who began using Paul to start a Jihad against a universe which had persecuted them for thousands of years. I see the possible fate of Luke in what happened to Paul. Through no design of his own, he may be manipulated by others as Darth Vader was. In the novelization of ROTJ, it states several times that Vader craved power, not evil. The evil came from the use of the Dark power. Maybe that is why Luke was able to turn him back to the good side. Vader did not feed on evil the way Palpatine did.

In his early 30's, Paul walked alone into the desert, heartsick and disillusioned, ready to accept death rather than face the terrible guilt he felt. When he controlled human lives and free will, he was a dictator. However, if Paul didn't use his powers to control events through his foreknowledge of the future, he was guilty of murder for every death he did not act to prevent. I wonder what will happen to Luke?

Even though DUNE was written over 10 years before SW, it does look like the powers behind the film DUNE chose elements that would compete with SW. There was too much emphasis placed on the "BATTLE FOR THE UNIVERSE". All that stuff about the weirding modules amplifying certain thoughts and words into sound weapons was invented for the movie. I suppose the filmmaker thought it was great SFX for the battle scenes. Actually, Paul used no

science fiction tricks to lead the Fremen. He was a good tactical commander because as a young man he had excellent instructors and advisors in his father's house, and he knew from prescience what the Emperor was planning. Paul could hardly lose. As with Luke, the real battle was within Paul. Should he fulfill his destiny? At what cost to the universe?

Now as to why Frank Herbert was so put out with the blockbuster success of SW, this again is my opinion. I think Herbert felt the frustration of a teacher whose students are not paying attention. I think he wanted to shake us and say, "Look. I'm trying to tell you something important about how and why we choose leaders. Put your space toys down and think about these ideas." Luke has a serious dilemma to face, and it has nothing to do with the shootout between the Imperials and the Rebels.

To anyone who has not attempted to read the DUNE series, I will not lie to you. The material has such density that if every idea in the books had actual physical weight, you could not lift them with a crane. I took the reverse course in reading the series after I saw the movie. It helped me visualize the places and characters. It also aroused my curiosity to find out more about the people in DUNE. I'm glad I looked beyond the film to find a fascinating universe of people who got the savior they prayed for. And regretted it.

Complicated Character

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July 7, 1986

Cheree: MediaWest has come and gone and I still have no idea who went home with the Fan Q Awards. I correspond with several of SE's readers and they're as deep in the dark as I am. Would you consider printing this information after MediaWest each year? Also, I have several questions that I hope you or someone else will answer. (1) Who nominates writers/artists/ zines for an award? (2) May any fan vote? If so, may votes be cast by mail? How does one receive a list of nominees before the voting deadline? (3) If the vote isn't open to everyone, what qualifies an individual to vote? Your amusing "The Ballad of MediaWest"Con" reminded me to ask all this! ((Ed: I'll include all this info in the article regarding the Fan Q's.))

Kerri (Kerry?) Smithline: Which is the correct spelling of your first name? I've seen it in print both ways. I agree that Darth Vader was under tremendous pressure during the Cloud City duel. Luke was the obvious victim and he deserved our sympathy, but I think that duel was a terrible event in Vader's life, too. As Ronda Henderson said, DV was a very complicated character. He clearly didn't want to kill Luke (he claimed that Luke was the Emperor's 'prize' even though Palpatine didn't seem to care whether Luke became a life ally or a dead enemy), and during the duel Vader showed a certain pride in Luke's skills; he was even disappointed when he mistakenly thought that Luke had fallen into the

carbon freeze trap. It's impossible to prove whether Vader's reactions stemmed from his need for a co-conspirator against Palpatine or from a waking sense of parental feeling. (I suspect that Vader was motivated by both and, at that point, still having trouble accepting the latter.) DV may have miscalculated his slice, but it's equally possible that he'd had to make a snap decision and that he'd chosen to cut off Luke's hand. Luke didn't have Vader's skill in TESB, but he had sufficient skill to wound his father. Although Vader didn't want to kill Luke, he may have realized that holding back might cost him his own life. (I have the impression that Vader was a bit surprised by Luke's level of skill and refusal to quit.) Luke was determined to kill Vader and, once the duel was on, Vader had to stop him. DV may have cut off Luke's hand as an alternative to cutting off Luke's head. On the other hand (pardon the expression), Vader may have been simply reacting to the wound Luke had just inflicted. Sudden pain can cause someone (especially someone trained in fighting skills) to react in self-defense, automatically. Vader may have cut off Luke's hand without a second thought. This may get a "boo-hiss" from some folks, but I felt damned sorry for Vader when he'd offered to share his power with Luke and Luke had rejected the offer. Luke may have been rejecting the evil Vader represented, but I think Vader saw this from a different angle. DV announced "I am your father", held out his hand with an offer to share a throne, and Luke chose almost certain death rather than accept. Luke was right and Vader was wrong, but from Vader's p.o.v., he was offering quite a lot. I doubt that Vader saw himself as Evil Incarnate or saw his offer as the repulsive thing Luke perceived it to be. One can imagine how Vader must have felt after receiving what he must've seen as the ultimate rejection of a parent by his offspring. Just a thought: Did Vader see the parallel between himself and Kenobi at this point? Both had fought and crippled a younger, less experienced opponent over political/philosophical disagreement; both had set out to change their opponent's views, failed, won a duel, and watched the loser fall to almost certain death, only to survive and grow stronger. If Vader did see this parallel, did it even slightly change his (presumably very negative) feelings about Kenobi? Could the resulting emotional confusion have led Vader to begin some re-examination of his own views?

Ronda Henderson: You mentioned Carol Hines-Stroede, last ish. Have you read her novel "Dragon's Teeth"? I gave it thirteen hours non-stop, undivided attention. I couldn't put it down till I'd reached the last page. Wonderful!

Mary Keever: I can't argue against your reason for believing that Luke is a virgin. I used the same line of reasoning to defend my view of Han, many ishes ago! Operating from your opinion, wouldn't it be fun to see a story in which our cool, self-confident, full-fledged Jedi Knight had to explain to a lady that he'd never had a lovesaber lesson? But then, perhaps he wouldn't explain anything. Maybe he'd take his old teacher's advice and just Act on Instinct. Yoda potty-training a young child? Yes, I can picture it and I think grouchy ol' Yoda would've made a great surrogate parent for any kid. Gruff manner or not, I can easily imagine Yoda feeding/training/entertaining/cuddling toddlers of any species.

Sandi Jones: I agree that Luke wouldn't push Jedi training on a child since becoming a Jedi requires (as Yoda tells Luke) "the deepest commit-

ment". I think Luke would offer to teach very basic lessons to older children who'd expressed a desire to become Jedi. I believe he'd do this with the good intention of letting each child freely choose his/her own path, later, but I wonder if it would work out that way. Would Luke be able to completely disguise his regret if a potentially very Force-powerful kid chose not to continue training? Would a teenager, perhaps one very fond of Luke, feel free to disappoint his teacher? Luke may have a lot of problems ahead--not problems of his own making, but problems caused by circumstances and human nature. Hopefully, Luke will be able to deal with such problems, if they arise. Whew! Sure glad I'm not the last Jedi! By now, I assume you've read my favorable comments on "Prophecy of the Lightbringer" in my LoC to A CLOSE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS. I'd love to see a prequel to that story. I'm also looking forward to the Clone Wars story that you're working on.

To Everyone who reminded me that Luke said, "I have no memory of my mother": I should've explained that I launched my speculation from a passage in the ROTJ novelization. In the book, Luke says he doesn't remember his mother, but he thinks of a scene from early childhood involving her.

Lin S. Ward: Interesting thought, that Luke's feelings of deja vu on Dagobah may be a hint at genetic memory. Could Luke's subconscious have identified Vader as his father, thus forming the image of Luke-in-Vader's-armor in the tree cave?

Sally Smith: Yes, I must admit, the Marysue in me would love to teach Luke what he didn't learn on Dagobah. Care to join S.M.U.T.T.I. (Society of Marysues United to Titillate The Imagination)?

Maggie N.: How many of us are crucifying Kenobi and how many are just examining, what is for some, the new discovery that he's not a stereotype saint? I hope I've never seemed angry or disappointed when discussing him. I'll be terribly disappointed if a First Trilogy film turns him into something less than the interesting 3-D human being that I realized he was, in ROTJ. True, his lie about Anakin was a kindness to Luke, and the lie was necessary, but I agree with Pat Nussman that Kenobi should've offered something more than that face-saving "certain point of view" explanation. I think most of us understand why Kenobi had to lie and I think Luke understood as well, but Kenobi didn't credit Luke with that much maturity, so he retreated behind a philosophical remark and a slightly arrogant tone. In my opinion, that was wrong, but "wrong" doesn't earn Kenobi eternal damnation, in my book. I've just read your story, "Last Sanctuary" (which I loved and I think your view of Kenobi's experiences after Anakin's fall is painfully realistic. I think more than one person verbally ripped into Kenobi for giving Darth Vader to their galaxy. With that in mind, it's not hard to imagine how Kenobi felt, knowing he had to tell Luke, of all people, about his long ago mistake. It's not hard to understand why he met Luke's accusatory question with a self-defensive philosophical remark. I think he was wrong to do that; I think it was insulting to Luke, but I can't say I wouldn't have done the same in Kenobi's place. Carol Mularski suggested that someone write an article on things Kenobi "should have done", if we don't like what he did. I think it would be fairly easy to rack up a list of Kenobi's mistakes and faults in a cold analysis of his character; technically, I'd define several of his actions as "wrong" but I'd be a self-righteous twit if I forgot that "wrong" usually has some very understandable reasons. Maybe some of the remarks

about Kenobi aren't meant to be as damning as they seem. Maybe some fans feel free to bluntly discuss his shortcomings on the assumption that Kenobi doesn't need a defense for being human. I dunno. Maggie...let's ask: Anybody out there willing to rip off ol' Ben's Jedi dogtags, break his lightsaber, and drum him out of our zines, in disgrace?

Carolyn Golledge: Solo as an ex-Imperial officer... Boy, would I like to see a long, gruelling story about Han's experiences as a pilot for the Empire (hint, hint), and how he decided to leave it all behind. That's really a great story idea, Carolyn... (hint, hint, again). ((Ed: May I recommend "The White Feather" by T. S. Weddell in A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #3? Not just because it's my zine, but because it's one of the best stories on the subject I've ever seen!))

Matthew Whitney: Desperate as I am to learn the "facts" about the First Trilogy, I'd settle for novels if Lucas definitely said there'd be no more films, but I do see your point. Some of those Trek pro-novels nearly killed my interest in Trek during the 70's, and God only knows who GL would hire to tell the First Trilogy stories. ((Ed: How about votes for who should write these hypothetical novels?? How about Vonda McIntyre? Anne McCaffrey? Fan-wise, I'd vote for T. S. Weddell, Martie Benedict-O'Brien, Anne Zeek or Patricia O'Razio.))

Pat Nussman: Good advice on how to criticize fan fiction. I'll never forget a LoC I saw, about three years ago, in which one fan called another's story "unrelievably wretched". I cringed for the total stranger who'd written the story. I was brand new to zine fandom and almost didn't get involved with fandom at all, after reading that LoC. There's always a tactful way to say, "I didn't like it" and it's been my experience that tact takes a bit more intellectual exercise than cruel remarks do.

Chris Callahan: Loved your comparison of fan writing to the unpaid job of a housewife. I think it's great when a fan writer goes pro because I assume that's what he or she wanted to do, and had the talent to do so, but for many, writing is simply a hobby. Ridiculing fan writers is a bit like ridiculing couples on the dance floor because they aren't professional dancers.

Carolyn Cooper: Okay, I have to ask--do you (or does anyone else) remember a scene in ANH, in the Death Star conference room, where Vader uses the Force to call a glass of water into his hand? This scene is in the novelization, but it's such a vivid mental picture that I'm almost certain I saw it on screen. I may be confusing it with a similar scene from a STAR TREK episode. ((Ed: That scene is in the second pilot, "Where No Man Has Gone Before", and involves Gary Lockwood "calling" a glass of water from across the room to him as Captain Kirk watches.))

Michelle Malkin: I've considered taking "Twisted Sister" as a pen name... One of my half-formed story ideas ends with an evilly grinning Yoda telling a dead-white-faced Ben that he'd deliberately allowed Ben to screw up Anakin's training. I don't prefer darkside stories (most of my favorite stories show the triumph of light over dark) but dark tales have a strong appeal for me. Agree with you about Anne E. Zeek's "Revenant". It was one of the first fan written stories I'd read when I began buying SW zines. A reviewer had said "Revenant" would 'haunt the reader for days', but it haunted me considerably longer. Dunster's full page illo for that story is also one of my favorite pieces of artwork.

In closing, I'd like to include my 2¢ on the SW Characters In Fanlit discussion. In fan fiction, SW characters often do and say things we've never seen them do and say on screen, but I don't feel that authors deliberately take our heroes, heroines and villains out of character. Each of us has his/her own sincere beliefs regarding how a character would behave in the new circumstances of a fan story. Perhaps the more talented writers do this in a more believable way (thus causing less or no objection), but I sincerely doubt that any writer sets out to present us with an unrecognizable Luke, Han, Lando, whoever. When reading what seems an "unlikely" scene in someone else's story, it might help to remember the words of a certain wise Jedi. Many of the truths we cling to...

Creative Ownership

Lisa Thomas
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June 30, 1986

What great timing! I had nothing to do all day--then SE#12 arrived! Since it was a smaller issue, I finished with plenty of time to comment. Could it be that mine is the FIRST letter? No, it's too much to hope for...

First of all, Cheree, I, for one, can certainly appreciate all you do to turn SE into a reality every 3 months. I spent over 6 months as a newspaper editor in high school, and I know all the work and frustration of typing, proofing, cutting, pasting, and final layout, especially when there's a deadline.

As you can see, I have established my own complaint department right in the pages of SE with the help of my co-workers Barbara Gardner and Tim Blaes who strive to make sure you do our letters right! (ha!)

It's always great to see faces to put to the names in SW fandom. Too bad MediaWest isn't a little closer to Charleston. At least Worldcon hit Atlanta this year.

Well, I didn't get a title, but I got Luke! (Eat your hearts out, Holy Sisters of Luke's Black Glove!)

And Darth Vader even made a brief appearance (not to be confused with Luke's brief appearance in #11 by Jenni) to surprise everyone!

Well, onto the letters...

Maggie N.: I can see your point about "creative ownership", but I really don't think it applies to fandom as we know it. If someone goes out and makes a movie or publishes a novel using a character not of his/her own creation in which the character is presented differently than the original, then I would say that applies to "creative ownership" because it affects a large audience. There are copyright laws to prevent that, anyway. In fandom, it is understood by most that the interpretation of the character is that of the writer, not the creator. Only a small amount of people see the stories

anyway. Well, I'll stop before I perform the proverbial jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

Carolyn Cooper: Ever notice that there are even lines on both the ANH and ROTJ dialogue soundtracks that were not on the screen?

Mary Keever: Hey, if you've got the bionic hand, then where's the rest of him?!

Kerri Smithline: It seems odd that someone with as much Force ability as Vader could miscalculate a slice by that much. I realize he had just gotten a nasty burn on his shoulder, but I think he had every intention of slicing off Luke's hand when he did. That must have been what Vader thought would finally push Luke over the edge (which I guess it literally contributed to doing, but that's not the edge Vader had in mind--ha!). "No sword? No sword hand? Is it any wonder that you feel such fear?" (NPR)

Darth Vader: Did you or did you not chop off Luke's hand intentionally?

Sally Smith: Only \$200? What a steal! I found some kids down the street with the Luke, Fett, Obi-Wan, Leia and Jawa large action figures. They thought I was being extremely GENEROUS when I offered \$5 each for them! (Hey--what they don't know won't hurt them!)

Tim Blaes: Smurftroopers and Communist Care Bears, huh? I can picture it, really. Tim, how about writing a story for my upcoming anti-Ewok zine?

Matthew Whitney: Hey, I just noticed that you're from the home state of my Celtics!

Anyhow, I think the episode of AMAZING STORIES that you are referring to was entitled "The Mission" and I felt cheated by the ending also.

A quick note here--has anybody else played the new ESB arcade video game? I'm not much into video games anymore after going virtually bankrupt as a victim of the PACMAN craze a few years back, but when I saw the ESB game, I made a mad dash for the token machine. In the game you destroy probots, AT-ATs, AT-STs, and TIE fighters. There is also a part where you elude asteroids. It's great to hear the music and a better variety of dialogue than the SW game had.

Carolyn Golledge: I always thought the reason Vader wanted to "freeze Skywalker for his journey to the Emperor" was to keep him from giving Vader any trouble on the way to face Palpatine. Perhaps by avoiding trouble, Vader hoped he wouldn't have to hurt Luke. I know that the NPR series is not the best source to use when supporting a theory, but remember when Vader said, "I did not wish to damage you, but you leave me no alternative" before cutting off Luke's hand? He wanted to present Luke in one piece to his Emperor.

On the erosion of SW fandom issue, how many of you saw the article in STARLOG on this subject? It's basically just another "where is SW fandom going?", but it is obvious that the number of active SW fans will drop now that the comics and fan club are things of the past. If only more people knew about fanzines... ((Ed: Well, hey, you people, get out there and educate the masses!!!))

Chris Callahan: I agree completely that no more films at all would be preferable to Lucas just throwing something together to placate SW fans. I don't think he even knows what he wants to do with it. Surely he couldn't have analyzed everything as much as the fans have--he seems far too busy with other projects. If he's going to continue the SW saga, then I want it done well also!

Carol Peters: Since I wasn't really very ana-

lytical when ESB was released, I just figured that Luke seeing his own face under the helmet of Vader was a foreshadowing that Vader was his father. When I saw the movie again in '83, I saw this as a sign to Luke from Yoda that if he didn't do as he was taught (be patient, use control, no anger or aggression, etc.) that he would become an "agent of evil" like Vader (no offense, Barbara G.). Of course, in the NPR series (why do I keep going back to that? I haven't even listened to it in months!), Luke interprets it as "My enemy's face is my own."

Myself: (No comments on my alleged schizophrenia, Gardner!) I did manage to find the 1986 edition of the ST/SW price guide. It's expanded and the book itself is a larger size than the previous editions so it costs \$7.95. The fanzine section has grown considerably. I saw some familiar names (like FAR REALMS) listed this time.

Cheree, did I really saw "fartherest"? To save my rep (watch it, Keever!), let's just tell everybody it was another typo, okay? ((Ed: Probably was, anyway.))

Barbara Gardner: So, are those guys pictured at the bottom of your LoC friends of yours? Or did you just talk Cheree into putting them there to scare me into agreeing to your idea for a name? Well, as for your threat concerning those star destroyers, this would be a great time for a very bad joke concerning the "Star Wars" defense system, but you know all about my sense of humor, so you probably already know what I'm thinking.

You'd better talk with the Holy Sisters of Luke's Sabre of Love--I mean of Luke's Black Glove --before you make any hasty decisions concerning a certain T-shirt.

Anyhow, you'll be hearing from me soon. I would've called you today, but it takes me forever to type letters and I'm fighting for first LoC.

Well, Cheree? Am I first? Do I get the spot that Annie and Jenni used to fight and quiver antennae for? If not, I at least deserve the "Most Improved LoCer" award this time--ha! ((Ed: Well, not first under the wire, but okay--nominate yourself for the other.))

See you next time, but until then--May the Force be with you!



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June 30, 1986

Hi, everyone!

Well, since it looks like I have the dubious distinction of holding the record for the longest LoC in SOUTHERN ENCLAVE, and since I consistently write very L-O-N-G letters, I thought I'd try to give everyone a break this issue (especially poor Cheree who has to type my monsters!) and see if I could go for the record for the SHORTEST letter in SE#13! (Fat chance, I know!) I'll never be a Big Name Fan since I don't write fanfic, but unfortunately, I'm afraid I already have the reputation of being a Big Mouth Fan! (That's really rather funny since I'm actually a quiet and shy person.)

I enjoyed all of the letters in SE#12, but my favorite discussion in the letterzine was the discussion about the kinds of music the characters would listen to and the kinds of cars they would drive. I chuckled over the suggested choices. However, I must protest your choice of transportation for Luke! A dune buggy would have been fine for the farmboy Luke, but it would be rather inappropriate for the Jedi Knight and future Jedi Master! ...How about a DeLorean?... No, huh? ...Too flashy?... Well, how about something more unassuming but sturdy, dependable and functional like a Buick, then? But the dune buggy has definitely GOT to GO! ((Ed: How about something sturdy, dependable and functional like a nice little silver-gray Mercedes? There's understated elegance, if it ever existed!))

Carolyn Golledge: I agree that Luke was probably the only one who could have reached his father and turned him back to the Light Side of the Force. Therefore, he ultimately was the best person to confront Vader. However, Ben and Yoda (especially Ben) didn't seem to think that Anakin could be saved, and it certainly would have been far easier for someone who was not related to him to deliver the death blow to the Dark Lord. That's why I thought Ben and Yoda would have preferred to train and send someone who was not a Skywalker to face Vader if another Force talent existed. From the information presented in the trilogy, it seems that Leia was the only other available choice.

A lot of new zines have been published recently and I would like to use the rest of this LoC to publicly thank the authors and artists of some of the new stories, poems and artwork that I have particularly enjoyed and to "advertise" them for others. My two favorite stories so far this year are the novels, REVENGE OF THE SITH by Ellen Randolph and TURNABOUT by Mary Jean Holmes. Ellen Randolph's characterizations are wonderful and she writes good dialogue and character relationships. Her original characters are interesting, complex and believable. (Her stories in GUARDIAN 7 and WOOKIEE COMMODE III are enjoyable and well-written also.) The artwork of Karen River and Letitia Wells in REVENGE OF THE SITH is consistently well done.

TURNABOUT has lots of action and lots of villains, and all of the major characters, including Chewie, Lando and even Wedge, play important roles. I think Mary Jean Holmes does very good characterizations of Han and Leia.

In A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #3, I particularly liked the art portfolio of Dianne Smith. I'm no expert, of course, but she seems to be an especially

talented artist! Jenni's Darkside Luke is a real charmer (those EYES!) and Jim Markle's cover drawing is well done also.

In SOUTHERN KNIGHTS II, my favorite story was "Above All Shadows" by Carolyn Golledge, and my favorite poetry was the funny "Tatooine Trilogy" by Jacqueline Taero. I always enjoy Jacqueline's poems and the love and friendship that Luke, Han and Leia have for one another is always evident in Carolyn's stories. (I wish you would be a little kinder to poor Han, though, Carolyn! The poor guy is always injured or sick in your stories!) I love the drawing by Laura Virgil of Luke Skywalker with twinkling eyes on the cover of SOUTHERN KNIGHTS II! It's VERY special! (Ann Wortham, if it is at all possible, please reconsider your decision to terminate SOUTHERN KNIGHTS after this issue! It would be sorely missed!)

I enjoyed Carol Mularski's Desert Seed novel, SIGNS OF WISDOM (which is a look at the STAR WARS universe from a different perspective--that of Luke's cousin, Kallie Lars), and Paula Freda's romantic "Labyrinth of Darkness" in SHADOWSTAR is an exciting adventure story.

I have only mentioned a small number of stories, poems, and illustrations because this is a letterzine LoC, not a fanzine LoC, but I have enjoyed many others. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the editors, writers, and artists who have contributed to STAR WARS material, for giving their time and energy to produce fanzines so that all of us can continue to enjoy the special characters and rich universe of STAR WARS. As one who is purely a consumer, I admire all of you who have contributed your talents and creativity. Thank you for helping to keep STAR WARS alive!

Well, I guess this LoC probably won't be the shortest letter in this issue of SE after all, but it DOES set a record for me! It's definitely MY shortest letter to date! Gosh! I can't believe how EARLY I'm getting this LoC finished! Did I get mine in first this time, Cheree? May the Force be with all of you!

((Ed: My, we have a lot of people who want to be contenders for the First Letter Award! You're all gonna have to be quicker than this! Actually, I love, love, love people who get their LoCs in early, since I don't have to type them all at the last minute, thereby delaying getting SE out! Of course, all you Under-the-Wirers are welcome, too, but remember--too far Under-the-Wire means you may get First Letter in the next issue! And, thanks, Marlene, for the comments on the zines, including my own! I'd love to see more feedback in SE on zines. Sometimes, it's the only feedback some of these talented people get. Let's keep 'em going, out there! We sure don't want these folks to get discouraged and drop out of fandom simply because they don't know how much we appreciate their work!))



Barbara Gardner
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July 4, 1986

Well, MediaWest sounded fun. Wish I could've been there. But, alas...

Maggie Nowakowska: I found a fairly representative sf book cover for you. (Her pose was a bit odd, but that's explained in the book.) It's a very good book and the female is even fully clothed! It's THE CRYSTAL SINGER by Anne McCaffrey (writer of the DRAGONRIDERS OF PERN series). I recommend it. It reminded me, when I read how the Singers were treated in their galaxy, of how the Jedi might have been treated in the Old Republic by the general populace...with anger and hate because of their difference from "normal" people and with fear of that difference.

Maybe I missed something somewhere in A NEW CHALLENGE, but where did you read that Owen took on Beru's last name of Lars? I don't recall them ever even being mentioned. The only story I ever read where he did that was KNIGHT OF SHADOWS, when they fled to Tatooine to keep Luke hidden from Vader's cousin, Koric. (This is a good zine for Vader fans. It's an alternate version of Vader's fall. And for those of you who dislike Kenobi--you'll dislike him even more by the time you're done. It's offered by Poison Pen Press, 627 East 8th St., Brooklyn, NY 11218). I want my check for that one! Will someone please inform Karen Osman for me? (And, uh, put a "sir"--or "ma'am"--on that. She outranks me in the Imperial Forces, and I'd rather not find out what happens to an Ensign who's court-martialed for insubordination in the Empire...)

Linda Kerry: A Waldenbooks manager?! You lucky little womprat, you! We don't even have a book store in St. Mary's! The nearest one (which happens to be a Waldenbooks) is 40 miles away. Torture!

Mary Keever: Sounds like you better lock your Luke doll into a safe deposit box and swallow the key!

What number was the last issue of OSWFC? I'm beginning to think I didn't get one, because I haven't seen a resignation by Maureen Garrett.

Kerri Smithline: I guess it is possible that Leia could have had Force-visions of her mother, but maybe she just had a good memory? I can still remember things from when I was four years old. (I wish I could remember farther than that sometimes--all the way back to my father--but I was only 6 months old when he disappeared, and I think Leia's mother was around much longer than that. In JEDI, she seems to be remembering a game of tag or hide-and-seek that she played with her mother...hardly something a 6-month-old could play.)

I agree that Vader did not intend to hurt Luke in ESB. I think either he overcalculated or Luke moved too fast.

Lin Ward: Everyone's trying to get around Luke's "having no memory of his mother", yet trying to place her with him on Dagobah for the "familiar" statement he made in ESB. Wouldn't it be more logical to assume that Ben took him there? Perhaps to ask Yoda what should be done about Vader's son?

Tim Blaes: I know all about the "lone-fan" syndrome! Fortunately, it's curable if contact with an outside group of fans is established! I loved SW from Day One and bought all kinds of stuff, but never knew about any fanzines, fan clubs, etc. In September 1983, I finally joined OSWFC upon finding

an ad of theirs in an ROTJ notebook I'd bought. What a boring way to be introduced to fandom! The only good thing that came out of that was cheap posters and a great pen pal (my first SW one ever) in Germany. (Groan! I've spent lots of hours with a German/English dictionary over her letters, but those dictionaries don't define words like "Lichtsabot" and "Dockbucht"--lightsaber and docking bay. And then there the word hyperspace...) Then, in 1985, I got an SW price guide, found the addresses to several fan clubs and zines, and I haven't been the same since! (Ask anyone who knows me! They'll tell you--then try to get you to help them put my black straight jacket on me!)

Darth Vader: You're more than completely welcome! Come see me some time, will ya? You haven't been around in a while!

(Cheree: Did you happen to catch the postmark on Darth's letter? Where's he from?) *grin* ((Ed: Can't remember exactly; seems like it was dropped in a mailbox somewhere in Ohio. But the Dark Lord is devious, you know. He probably just landed his TIE fighter to do so, then took off again.))

Marlene Karkoska: I don't think the Jedi fell because they were inherently evil. That's a rather narrow-minded view of what may very well have not been any fault of their own. I agree with you, that they were betrayed (and not necessarily first and/or only by Vader) and destroyed. I also agree that the New Order will be much the same as the old with the exception that I feel there will be considerably more change to adjust to the times than you implied.

I don't think that the Alliance can form a "New Republic", though. The Old Republic lasted a long time, yes, but what were the inside reasons behind that? My favorite story so far to deal with that was "The Ideology of Balance" in SITH YEARBOOK. I rally firmly to Piett and Anakin's side. I don't think the OR was all it was cracked up to be--at least not toward the end.

Barb Brayton: Ha! You read SHADOWSTAR (or at least Mary Jean Holmes' works) too! I was beginning to think I was the only one!

Matt Whitney: I pronounce it L-Oh-See and I'm a Fee-ah-wol. How 'bout you?

When you trade in your stills for a peek at Uncle George's notes, would you be so kind as to Xerox off a copy of them for me and send them on up? Please? (Or, if you go home first, send them on down.)

Sheryl Herrly: Hi, friend! Another Vader fan! Two new ones in one issue! We're coming out from underground in real leaps and bounds now! I've just discovered Carol Hines-Stroede myself, in her story "Requiem" in SITH YEARBOOK, and she's great! That story brought tears to my eyes! I'm currently saving my pennies for her novel of Anakin's fall, DRAGON'S TEETH.

And while I'm thinking about it (or rather him), I'm looking for a Vader fan pen pal (or two or three...).

Carolyn Golledge: After you're finished with that 6'5", 265 lb. black armored package that Matt is sending, would you pass him on to me? I'll even take back my threats concerning your calling that package a shoe-shine boy... Fair deal?

I don't know why Vader would want to freeze Luke either, unless it came back to the point of harming him in combat. He specifically stated to Lando that he did not want Luke "damaged". Maybe he didn't trust his own control of his anger in the event that Luke would provoke it, and was afraid

that he might harm or kill his son in a moment of Darkside rage. A short fight to maneuver him into the freezing pit would be much easier and more reassuring to Vader. (I believe that Vader did already have feelings for Luke in ESB, and have already stated my feelings concerning his severing Luke's hand.)

Ronda Henderson: I'm with you! I'd rather know much more about Luke and Leia's father than I would their mother!

Hot Hands? Death Breath?! Geez, Ronda, at least try to have some respect for the dead, will ya? After all, Old Brainburn and Darth might be out there listening when you say something like that!

I'm a Vader/Spock fan, too. Hmmmmmm.

Sandra Necchi: No one interviewed me for that Gallup Poll, girl! I'm more than aware of the down-hill swing our mainstream media is taking. (The various four-letter words that echo off my living room walls when I see the way they're covering many stories anymore will support that!) However, we do not have the worst press in the world, so would you mind not making your comments imply that so much? Maybe you aren't intending to, but that's the way it's sounding to me, and maybe that's the way Tim's taking it, too.

Carol Peters: The "hell" references have always bugged me, too, in a Universe that does not call its afterlife "heaven".

Ah! You ask about the Cave! Well, I think that experience was meant to teach Luke many things. First, seeing his own face was a warning that he could become just as evil as Vader if he weren't careful, and that the Darkness was in him, as you suggested. Also, as you suggested, the vision was to show him he was fighting himself. This was demonstrated by his taking the weapons into the Tree--he didn't have enough faith in his own abilities to go without them. But, lastly, something I've never heard anyone else mention about this scene yet, this could have been a warning to Luke of who his father really was. After the mask fell open, the face that was revealed was what Luke thought to be his own because his mind had no other beings to associate it with, but it may actually have been a young Anakin's face. Even in Anakin didn't look like Luke (though I like to believe that Luke is all but a spitting image of his father), it still fits, because Luke wouldn't have known that. And in his subconscious, he would have known Vader was his father (else he wouldn't really have sensed so certainly later on that Vader was telling the truth), and would have represented that fact by showing his father's face to appear like his own, even if his conscious mind couldn't at that time grasp the meaning of the similarity. Understand? (Does anybody understand what I just said?)

For the Captain Needa controversy: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK novelization, page 136, paragraph 3, sentence one. Now, would Uncle George have allowed that sentence to be written in that book which he intended as his holy version unless that was what he'd intended for Needa?

Michelle Malkin: The image of Ben kicking Anakin right in the ectoplasm got me giggling. Then I imagined Anakin, in return, sticking out a pseudopod of ectoplasm from the facial area at Ben!

Lisa Thomas: You only beat me by four days in issue 12. Bet you won't beat me this time! (And, no, I have not lost all control of my senses! I knew perfectly well what I was doing when I put that "Adopt an Ewok Today" sticker on you letter!)

Cheree: I told you I'd type it this time--even if my typewriter is being temperamental today! Save the Sith!

Insecticon

Mary Keever
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July 14, 1986

Hello, gang! I hope all of you guys are enjoying your summer. I want to start off by saying how much fun Conzineience was and wish all of you could have been there. It was so much fun meeting everyone!

Cheree: I enjoyed your poem "The Ballad of MediaWest*Con" and the pictures. I've said it before, I'll say it again. I really enjoy the pics in SE.

Carol Peters: I love your speeder bike! You are one lucky girl. I think when Luke saw his face in the severed helmet it was a warning of what he could become. It could also be a clever foreshadowing from Lucas about Darth being Luke's poppa.

Judy Low: Hello! I love all the mastheads.

Maggie Nowakowska: Liked your thought on Luke being ignorant, not stupid. I agree. He was ignorant of things unknown to him, but certainly not stupid. He showed a lot of smarts, especially in the flying department.

Carolyn Cooper: Hello, and nice to see you in the pages of SE.

Linda Kerry: It seems like everyone has had bad dealings with Lucasfilm. It is sad when the supposed liaison makes fans feel about two inches tall. I wonder if this is one of the reasons she was "let go"?

Yes, ECHO SEVEN is out. I received mine about a year ago. Here's the addy from inside the zine: Echo Seven, c/o Darla Doxstater, PO Box 1704, Pagosa Springs, CO 81174, OR Darla Doxstater, Lawrence Hall 3E, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO 80631.

Carole Regine: I too believe Vader had feelings for Luke in TESB. He had a lot of opportunities but Luke slipped by every time.

I know you would have gone upstairs to view Vader's light saber collection. (After me, of course!)

Kerri Smithline: I liked your hypothesis that perhaps Owen was repressing Luke because of his own lost dreams and yes, maybe even dreams of being a Jedi.

Sally Smith: The Holy Sisters of Luke's Black Glove meets every third Wednesday; wear black and don't forget your glove!

Your version of Steve Martin as Solo's cousin had me in stitches!

Tim Blaes: If you can call me sweetcakes, I'm going to call you studmuffins! Glad you enjoyed ENEMY MINE. A great flick.

Anyone: Who has seen LABYRINTH? Opinions?

Darth Vader: Welcome to SE.

Marlene Karkoska: Liked what you said about why Vader fell and the darkside being a danger to

Luke; them not being trained at an early enough age. It's nice to have someone take your idea and run with it!

Carolyn Golledge: I imagine the reason Vader wanted to freeze Luke was so he would go to the Emperor without putting up a fuss.

Michelle Malkin: A lot of people seem to have the same thought about Ozzel being a rebel spy. Interesting twist!

Lisa Thomas: You bet I have my paws on Luke!! And to tell the truth, I only paid about \$12.50 for him (a cheap date--hee hee).

Yep, the 86 ed. of the ST/SW price guide is available. I purchased mine for \$7.95 at Waldenbooks.

Well, I guess that about wraps it up. Take care, everyone, and see you in a couple of months.

P.S. I survived Insecticon, July 4-6, 1986. HEE HEE ((Ed: We laid this label on Concineience for a very good reason! There was a large atrium with a fountain and plants in the center of the hotel lobby. It seemed to have a healthy crop of gnats and mosquitos, which pursued the congoers everywhere throughout the hotel. Nothing to drive you screaming into the night, but there always seemed to be a tiny flying insect buzzing you!))

attest to having two different versions. When R2 is running the sequence on the Death Star, looking for the tractor beam, in one version 3PO narrates in the background about some problem involved in tracking down the proper location. In the other version, we hear only the clicking of the instrumentation during the process. I saw the second version on the screen but had the first version on a black market copy of ANH that I had which I think originally came out of California. This was the same tape that had the "close the blast doors" sequence which we hadn't gotten on the screen in Texas.))

As for TESB, in Seattle we saw it at 12:01a.m., opening day, at a special showing connected with a local film festival, and saw none of the scenes Carolyn describes. Perhaps as has been suggested with ANH, there was a difference between the 35mm prints and the 70mm prints.

Okay youse guys, I second Kerri Smithline's inquiry: If all those male Jedi are running around decorating their lightsabers in interesting ways, and claiming all sorts of prowess from them, what claims do the female Jedi make for their sabers, huh? I mean, this is one case where both sexes have the same equipment, so tell those guys to stop hogging the limelight. I suspect that this is also a case where the phrase "hang it up" is anticipatory rather than deprecatory; once those sabers are stowed, both sexes of Jedi are probably best when their Forceful little fingers do the, ah, walking.

Sally Smith brings up a good point about how people regard themselves. The word "human" can certainly be taken generically, a la "The People" Sally quoted. Maybe some writer will one day come up with a term that so perfectly fits folks who look like us (and most of the players in SW) that we can all use it to describe "our sorts" and leave "human" or "people" for all sentient beings. Until then, I suppose "sentient" will have to suffice, but it's such an awkward word, and has far too many syllables. I really dislike it.

Sally also mentioned the SFX problems in the sand barge sequence in JEDI. I recall reading, perhaps in an issue of CINEFEX, that the "sand scenes" were the most difficult, and ultimately the least successful by the SFX artists' lights. They had conquered snow finally, according to one quote, but sand would take a lot longer. I've noticed the same problems in other movies with SFX against real sand. If nothing else, the sequence serves as not ice that the art is still evolving.

As Pat Nussman does, I have always liked Gordon Carleton's vignette that posits Ozzel as a rebel spy. That story was one of those that makes you slap your forehead and say, "Of course!"

Pat and Chris Callahan continue the discussion on the sometimes differences between writing-for-pro and writing-for-fun. I think the disdain many have for "amateur" lit can be traced back, at least, to Dr. Samuel Johnson with his "No man but a blockhead ever wrote except for money", from BOSWELL'S LIFE OF DR. JOHNSON. Add that attitude to our culture's use of money to describe a person's worth, and you end up with non-profit writing being considered worthless (even for blockheads!). Or suitable only for women (sic). Poetry, for example, which makes very little money in our culture, is considered effeminate by many. Sometimes, when I can't reconcile my own feelings on the subject, I think of fannish writing as folklore. Like folk songs and folk tales, fanlit fills a need of our social group, it grows and changes with that need and with time.

Why We Write

Maggie Nowakowska
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July 18, 1986

Aiy! My letter was first one on the line last issue! No other letters before it to distract readers from any idiotic things I didn't edit out. Sigh. That'll teach me to keep up with my correspondence. Back to leaving everything for the last minute.

(Oh, a quick plea for increased use of paragraphs in letters! When an idea proves a whole column long without any kind of a break, I start losing the line of thought. Half a paragraph seems to be my limit without careful, line-by-line marking of the letter. Maybe it's just my bad eyes; anyone else out there find letters easier to read when the paragraphs are smaller?)

Regarding Carolyn Cooper's missing scenes. In Seattle, we saw the "close the blast doors/open the blast doors" sequence complete for most of the summer; Luke's initial attempts to hook his line were also there. I remember the first entrance of Kenobi being cut differently, and much more effectively, but haven't found anyone who agrees (the Sandpeople heard the loud, weird sound, looked up, saw nothing, but decided to split. Only after that did Kenobi appear; there was a definite cut demonstrating the mystery. Now he appears as the sound comes and seems to be what scares the SP off, which is less credible, I think, considering Kenobi's appearance. Of course, they may have had a few run-ins with the old wizard and know better than to hang around). ((Ed: It occurred to me after multiple viewings that Kenobi might have been speaking Tusken and not just making noise. Maybe he was putting a double whammy of a curse on them if they didn't split. There is another scene in ANH that I can personally

and the concept of marketing it does not apply. And just as the concept of growing and catching what we eat, weaving and sewing the clothes we wear, providing directly for our survival has given way to working for money so we can buy what we need to physically survive, so, too, food for mental thought has passed out of the hands of those who use it directly into the hands of those who sell it back to us. What we fans provide for ourselves is self-entertainment, a mighty rare beast these days.

Related to that subject is Mary Urhausen's reminder that there is no right or wrong way to write a LoC. I'd like to add that a LoC is not necessarily a review. In the early days of media fandom, LoCs were often mini-critiques, and I think a bit of that "threat", both for the writer who must endure the critique and the LoCer who must write it, still lingers.

I know I often feel stymied over what to write since I don't know whether the editor/writer actually wants an analysis (especially my analysis which I don't have that much confidence in) or whether they simply want to know if the piece was enjoyable. It seems to me that there is one stream in fandom that wants criticism, that is as interested in the craft of writing as in the subject matter; however, another much larger stream in fandom goes for the story first, middle and last, and is not interested in technique, style or grammar beyond the readability of the tale. Both streams are valid, but like oil and water, they don't necessarily mix.

To Carolyn Golledge, I offer this thought on why Vader planned to freeze Luke: Perhaps this was part of Vader's apparent scheme to overthrow the Emperor. Perhaps he suspected (1) that Palpatine would fry Luke at the slightest sign of rebellion, or (2) that he could use the boy as pawn more effectively if the boy was temporarily out of commission, or (3) that Luke could turn out to be as powerful as his father and that it was safer for everyone involved if the kid was put on superslow speed at the beginning. Or, all 3!

A question for you, Carolyn: I have heard that the Australian version of MAD MAX is quite different from the American version, and that the original is much better (less apparently mindless violence, more storyline). Do you know anything about this? Does anyone out there know if that claim is true, and if it is, where a person can get a copy of the Australian version? The two subsequent movies imply a film consciousness far more complicated than the moronic rape-pillage-and-burn version I've seen.

Carol Peters asks about the various "hell" references in the Saga. Since on our own world many very different cultures have come up with a concept of a nasty place where nasty people go when they die (some of these hells are multi-leveled, as in Dante and in certain Buddhist sects; some are places of boring suspension, some are hot, some are deadly cold), I would be surprised if the various cultures in the SW (especially the terran-style human ones) universe didn't have a thousand and one different concepts of "paying one's dues in the next existence".

A second thought is that hell could be used as a word for chaos, for the dark side reality. Spider Robinson has one of his aliens, in CALLAHAN'S SECRET, using the word "Entropy!" in a similar manner. And I seem to recall one of the nuns telling us in school that hell wasn't really like the popular art portrayed, but rather was the absence of Light, of God.

Thanks to Mickey Malkin for mentioning "Last

Flight of the Millennium Falcon". It's always nice to have a story of one's own brought up--especially when the story is now 7 years old. Ouch!

Welcome back to Sandra Necchi! Missed your letters!

I suspect some of the trouble between fen and the media depends on where you live. Locally, we can't complain. There were some of the all-too-familiar stories in the early 70's, but since then, coverage has improved wonderfully. I could produce local newspaper articles that go into the fans' opinions on the impact of SW, and on how mediefandom has helped various women in their careers. The local SF con, Norwescon, tends to avoid reporters not only because of the threat of idiotic presentation (and the behavior of idiotic fans), but because the reporting is usually good enough to encourage more people to show up at the front door of the hotel than the con, or hotel, can handle.

I remember standing in line for JEDI. We were about 7 or 8 back from the start. The reporters showed up all right, and they did want to talk with the first fan in line. But that first fan was a grown woman and was treated respectfully; when the kids behind her tried to horn in, the reporters pretty much ignored them. Eventually, they came to our group (average age in the mid-30s) and talked long and intelligently with us, behavior that was reflected in their story later.

Of course, Seattle is a town that is almost as big on Space as it is on local out-of-doors recreation, and as big on movies as it is on buying books. One coverage I really liked after JEDI opened was when a local station purposely aired immigrant Americans' opinions on the movie.

I don't think you have any need to even think about apologizing for your reviews, Sandra. Mary Schmidt was right. You are a good reviewer, upfront with your prejudices, and though a reader might disagree with you, I find no challenge to her self-worth implied in your writing if she does so. Keep up the good work.

As a graduate of the late 60's, I would disagree with the placement of SW among Reagan-era films. The simple faith SW exhibits in the rebellion against an authoritarian government seems to me to be very indicative of the late 60's, early 70's. Many complaints I've heard against the Saga recently, by nonfen and fen alike, refer to its pre-Watergate, idealistic notion of "repairing what went wrong" as terribly naive.

I would name Spielberg the bridge between the two times rather than Lucas because Steven's button-pushing is as blatant as Stallone's, and because his support of the notion that the little guy must fight against all Government because all Government is corrupt is right down Reagan's and the neoconservatives' hypocritical lane. SW still expects people to band together in a social/political unit to solve their problems; the notion that people can indeed work together for the common good is one of the unspoken supports of the saga. Luke is a part of a team, even if members of that team sometimes act alone; and in the end Luke does not save the universe, but rather simply witnesses the source of the trouble hoisted on its own petard.

Spielberg segues into the "Lone Avenger" mythos much more easily with his heroes that defy The Government, which is presented as foolish, tyranical, and without redeeming reasons for being. Individuals within that Government may eventually be sympathetic in SS's movies, but I do not see any inkling of understanding that there are reasons why

people construct governing structures in the first place.

Speaking of governments, as a number of people, along with Sandra, did this issue--I agree with Sandra that the question of what kept the Jedi working well for so long is a good one. In addition to Sandra's idea that the Republic became too cumbersome and unwieldy, I would like to suggest the notion that the perception of what government is also may have changed. Sandra earlier notes that the galaxy is not under control, even with the Empire. What if the Galaxy never was "under control" while the Republic was strong; what if the main threat to the Republic was a sentient desire to initiate such control where control is indeed impossible?

Let's posit the Republican government as a process rather than an object. A process must be eternally flexible, reacting to its environment and adapting to it in order to maintain integrity; on the other hand, an object must have some sort of structure, must establish rules that define it in order to maintain that structure in proper form. A process is never realized as a finished product; the possibility is not allowed by the concept. The integrity of an object must be maintained against distortion if it is not to change what it is. For example, the U. S. Constitution describes a process. As a social and political guide, it grows and changes as needs change and develop. The Constitution can never be perfected; alteration is a requirement for its existence. It is an excellent political example of the old paradox that the only absolute is change itself. In contrast, many concepts of America are defined as entities, as objects, that cannot be changed lest they become--dare I use the term?--unAmerican. Take the Middletown, traditional family definition of "real" America. This "America" cannot be reconciled with statistics that demonstrate that the majority of Americans live in another "America" of urban areas and nontraditional families. We live today with the conflict that results when supporters of two (and more) ideas-as-objects reject the notion of adaption and strive for the sole position of authority offered in an objectified reality (those who argue that only one "real" America can exist).

If the Old Republic operated as a process, we can visualize it as a network with which the various planets and systems kept in contact and worked at maintaining peaceful relations with each other both politically and economically. The Jedi would be the flexible joints of that net, stretching and contracting as circumstances demanded, guiding the changing galaxy through cooperative exchanges with the broad restrictions of congenial congress, neutral but for their duty to guard against activities that threatened this process. Any number of different styles of galactic government could wax and wane over the millenia, so long as no attempt was made from the central authority to "make the galaxy one". As Sandra points out, material gain underlies most conflict, whether that gain be in goods, power, or influence (religious and ideological tyrannies). Keeping that in mind, the continual challenge thrown up against the Republic, the threat of rigidity, or arteriosclerosis of the ties that bound the galactic community, would occur when people attempted to guarantee personal profit (as individual persons or as individual worlds) by trying for that brass ring of authority on a universal scale.

The Clone Wars could have started as simply one more attempt at the establishment of a more rigid

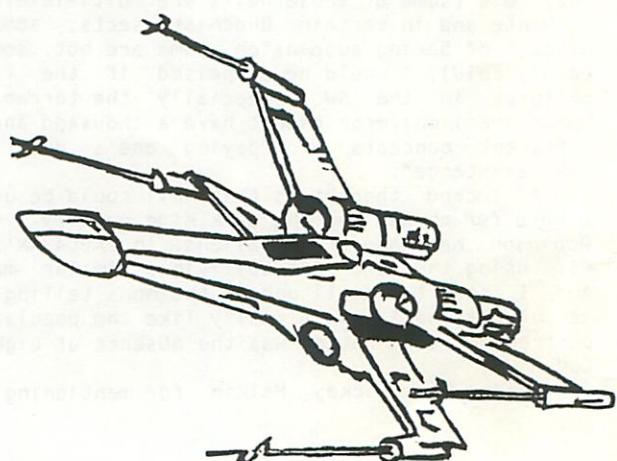
system than the Republic. The Jedi, operating as usual when faced with such a threat to Republic flexibility, might have been taken by surprise by Palpatine and his Forceful powers. When Palpatine then acquired Anakin Skywalker's knowledge, the Jedi faced a game with a wild card that the Jedi were not historically prepared to deal with. The situation may have been so unbelievable that *by the* time they understood their danger, it was too late.

I can see how such a change in government could be sold to the populace; the security of an unchangeable structure certainly appeals to terran humans, witness both the extreme Right and Left (all the "When OUR system is installed, there won't be any need for dissent" people) of our own world, and the rigidity of many religions and ideologies with their conviction that only they have the One Truth. If such attitudes are a continual problem for humans, the apparently dominant race in the SW galactic civilization, then a subconscious pro-rigidity structure would have always existed in the Republic and would be fertile ground for Palpatine's extraordinary skills.

Perhaps, too, in this scenario provides a reason why the Dark is so reviled. As we have seen with its two very skillful users in the Saga, the Dark seems to limit a person, to blind a person, to all that might be seen in the Force. It is very easy to extrapolate from the danger of limits within the Force to a low regard for governments that limit horizons of thought, and of activity. Hence, the Empire with its determination to gain control over the galaxy would be seen as Darkside in its basic theory as well as in its methods.

In this kind of universe, I would argue that what the rebels are doing is not necessarily trying to restore the past; rather they are trying to repair a mechanism that does work, but that has had a wrench thrown in it for the sake of material/psychological greed. I do not think the new Republic will work in the same way as before, now that the possibility of such a Forceful wrench is recognized, just as the Jedi must be different for their now bloodied history. But the idea the Alliance wishes to regain can be seen as sound. For myself, the only sort of government I have been able to imagine working among disparate races, planets, systems and stars is one that recognizes the imperfection of sentient life, that simply "keeps trying" while it leaves options open all over the place. Such would be a pretty sloppy system, and I doubt it would ever meet all the moral requirements of any one belief system, not even its own broad faith in Life and the Force as represented by the Jedi, but for me, it is better than institutionalized stormtroopers.

Well, I'm at the end of the sixth page. And the end of lunch hour. Till next time, fly casually.



Kerri Smithline
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July 18, 1986

Now that the Official Star Wars Fan Club is going down the ol' tubes, does this mean that the guidelines could possibly be lifted? And mayhaps there will be Star Wars cons?

Marlene Karkoska: Who declared Luke a Jedi? Did he? In Yoda's own words, Luke wouldn't be a Jedi until he faced Vader. Also the line, "I'm Luke Skywalker, Jedi Knight"--did Jabba not believe in Jedi's? Or did he remember the Jedi and just not believe in Luke? How old is Jabba, and how does he know from "old Jedi mind tricks"?

Tim Blaes: How about JEE's (Jewish Endorian Ewoks), or JEP's (Jewish Endorian Princesses), or even JAP's (Jewish Alderaani Princesses)?

Patricia D'Orazio: You're right. That was Wedge (the cutie) in the next to last scene on the flight deck on Yavin.

Sally Smith: Who's from the east coast?

Why didn't Luke's senses pick up the Wampa? Granted, he didn't know he had it in him yet, but wouldn't it have worked automatically? Also, in ESB, was Leia upset because Luke was out in the blizzard, or because Han was? And wouldn't you have loved to have been a fly on the wall when Leia gave it to Han for going out alone the night before? Han does seem kind of contrite in the bacta scene. (The camera moved back slowly to show a nervous Han with his head bowed.)

Was there a Jedi diaspora and subsequent hunt-down, or were the Jedi exterminated all at once in one place?

Now here's one for Vonnie and all you other darksiders--Vader had plans for after offing the Emperor and Palpatine knew it, so when he (the Emperor) was shooting out his lightning or x-rays or whatever, he was absorbing all the dark energies of Vader (leaving him weak and near death) and of Luke (leaving him cleansed and even stronger with the lighter side). he was doing this mainly because of his own greed at being all or nothing. If he was going to go, he'd take or at least try to take 2 more with him. In fact, since the Emperor was a force vampire, and Vader knew it, he defended the Emperor when Luke went at him with the lightsaber, not because the Emperor would die, but because he maybe could have (would have?) absorbed the energy in the lightsaber and then become really indestructible. (Remember Ben's line, "If you strike me down, I will become more powerful than you can possibly imagine.") Extending this idea a little further, we could say the Emperor was "feeding off of" Vader all this time, and he needed the new blood, so to speak, of Luke. Luke's anger seemed almost pleasurable (sensual, sexual?) to the Emperor.

Ben asks Yoda if he was any different after Yoda tells him that there is much anger in Luke. Did this mean that Ben hit the dark side at one time, and if he did, was it Yoda who brought him back?

Unless Vader did his own arithmetic, how did he know that Luke Skywalker was just a boy? They were never formally introduced, and Anakin never did know about his son. (Page 66, ROTJ novelization.) Did Vader know about Yoda and that it was Yoda who taught Luke? If he did, why did he say that "Obi-Wan has taught you well"? Where did he think Ben disappeared to when he offed him on the first Death

Star?

The Han/Leia argument at the beginning of ESB could very well have been a continuation of a lover's quarrel. Perhaps begun the evening before?

Could there be any other Jedi, perhaps in POW camps? Yeah, yeah, I know what you're all going to say, that Luke is the only one left. Or is he the only "active" one left?

Anyone ever notice how, in the medal ceremony in SW, when Han gets his medal, his eyes follow upwards kind of slowly from Leia's cleavage to her face, and Luke (sweet kid that he is), his eyes go from his boots straight up to Leia's face?

Carolyn Golledge: G'day! Read "A Debt Paid" the other night in WOOKIEE COMMODE II. Great story. A little too many "ingly" words, but not to worry, nothing was spoiled. I got the zine a while back, but why I didn't read your story then, is beyond me now. If anyone has not read this story, by all means do. It fills in the gray area at the beginning of ROTJ, as regards Han Solo.

Now about character "owning". Who does a character belong to if it's totally original, but living in the STAR WARS universe by necessity?

A question--Why weren't there any Imperial aliens, besides the bounty hunters in ROTJ, and the guy with the nose in SW?

Saw "The Possessed" ("The Devil in Miss Joan") the other night, and I've heard of teachers getting fired, but this is ridiculous! ((Ed: For those of you who miss the reference, this was an early role of Harrison's in which he played a philandering science teacher at an all-girl's school. After dallying with the affections of the headmistress and then dropping her for one of the girls, he mysteriously burst into flames and expired rather horribly.))

Cheree--I'm still waiting for your info on CHOICE PARTS (SASE sent some time ago). Oh, yes, and Happy Sesquicentennial, people! ((Ed: To all of you who have sent SASEs, never fear! A flyer is now in the works and will be on its way to you shortly! And thanks from all us Texans to all of y'all out there for helping us celebrate our 150th year!))

Live long, prosper, and may the Force be with you!

Writer's Rights

Matthew Whitney
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July 20, 1986

LoCs, like great works of art, are never finished, only abandoned. That can certainly apply to my letter in last ish, for I want to jump right in on a couple of topics I addressed to great extent, but didn't complete as much as I'd wanted.

On "Whose fandom is it, anyway?", I directed most of my comments at the rights of a fan to go pro by writing fiction based on (in this case) GL's SW universe. Basically, I feel we do not have that right legally, but feel we should be allowed to put out zines. Maggie Nowakowska brought out a very

valid point in her LoC that expands this question. She's created a character in her fiction and she would not want anyone else using it in a way she would think inappropriate for the character. That is well within her rights. I'd suggest anyone who wished to use another fan's creation to first write to that person and ask permission, then when the piece is written, send the creator a copy for approval. If at any time the creator says s/he does not want you using their character, it should end there. That is just plain good manners. To use someone else's creation in a way the person does not approve would be like borrowing your neighbor's car and then entering it in a demolition derby.

But doesn't Lucas deserve the same consideration we would give another fan? I, myself, have written several stories, never once having received permission to do so from GL or LFL. Am I employing a double standard? Yes, I am. My defense is that the impression I get from LFL is that they don't mind fan stories and fanzines published on a limited scale with the goal of break even at best. As far as I know, LFL has never come out in public and announced that SW is open to anyone who wants to do fanfic on it. They'd be cutting their own throats if they did, but they do know of us and have not taken steps to stomp us out (or if they once did, they don't anymore). To me, that says what I've said above: As long as you aren't making a buck from it, we'll look the other way.

Another aspect of this question I did not address was Alternate Universes. I strongly agree with Marlene Karkoska that if a fan's story strays too far from the way the characters were created by Lucas, my interest is diminished. Indeed, my main basis for judging another's story is how "right" the characters feel. Also, if you want to compliment one of my stories, just tell me the characters came across exactly as they did on screen, for that is my ultimate goal--to recreate the characters as GL did and to expand on them in a way he'd approve.

In my LoC last time, I said "an author has every right in the world to tell stories as s/he wants, and I'll argue to the death anyone who tells me I cannot." I still believe that. If you want to write a story, even if you are portraying the characters 100% different from how we've seen them in the films, you should have that right. On the other hand, I care very strongly for our heroes (and our villains) and I take it badly when I see them "trashed." To me, it is an insult, and I wonder how someone can consider themselves a fan if they won't accept the characters as they were created by GL. The classic case is in TREK fandom with the K/S fans. I never even got a hint that such an idea could be fathomed, until I found out there was an entire branch of fans who subscribed to that thought. Never have I called for these fans nor for alternates in general to be banned, and for one basic reason--freedom of expression. If they want to write their stories, even if I don't approve, it is their own business, just as much as my stories are my business. No one said I had to read them--and I don't. When I come across alternates in my zine reading, I will give them a try. If they are good, I'll finish them; if not, I'll go onto the next story. Good ones are of the thought experiment kind, "What if...?" Bad ones trash the characters, and to me say the "fan" is not a true fan and wants something different. Different categories of alternates include ones where a new character has been created and placed into an existing universe or an entirely new cast has been created, and I've

not included those types in the above discussion. Personally, I'm not interested in other characters unless they are fabulously written. For me to view a character as an equal to one of GL's, it has to be as good as they are, and that rarely happens.

Should alternates be allowed in public along with all the other types of fanfic? Yes. Even the ones that could be viewed as an insult to the spirit of whatever they are based on? Again, as long as no one is getting hurt, I don't see why not. K/S stories did not turn me off TREK (never read 'em, never will), so they've done me no harm. It is up to the individual to decide what type of fanfic s/he wants to read. A caring editor should make it clear if a story/zine is an alternate, especially if it could be viewed by some to be offensive. That way, people who do not want to read them don't get ripped off.

To wrap this all up, all I'm saying is we can have all types of stories, but let's keep our own houses clean. No one wants LFL to step in and try to wipe out zines (especially all us who enjoy them).

One other bit of old business before I go onto other topics: on what is wanted from Lucasfilm, you'll notice I, unlike many others, did not ask for "respect". The reason is simple--I've never had a bad experience with them. I met Howard Kazanjian, Maureen Garrett, and Sid Ganis (the ex-VP of Marketing) at Boskone in '83, and all three struck me that they greatly cared for the fans. Maybe I've been luckier than other fans and caught LFL people only at good times, but that is the source I've based my opinion on. As for the OSWFC's newsletter "talking down" to us, I took it simply as they had to make it readable for all fans from 6 to 60 (and then some). I never expected THE WALL STREET JOURNAL from BANTHA TRACKS, but still enjoyed every issue and will miss it. It was reasonably priced and came with some very fine extra gifts (stills/posters/patches/etc.). Also, where else could you buy a "Revenge of the Jedi" poster for \$9.50? And there is a long list of other items we could get as well. The Fan Club was not perfect, but at least we had one and it was a far cry better than most others (which can be pure rip-offs).

Time to get off the soap box and onto other topics.

Maggie Nowakowska: The reason I think the Emperor's powers were ignored was because he was somewhat like the Mule in Asimov's FOUNDATION series. His powers are a mutation, an unpredictable talent that the Jedi had no defense against.

You also say you "never bought the Kenobi-as-saint line". I did, hook, line and sinker. Maybe that explains why I came out of TESB thinking the cliffhanger was "Is Darth Luke's father?" while my Han fan friends couldn't care less. To them the most urgent question was how to rescue Han.

"Isn't Luke's immaturity in ANH representative of everyone's immaturity when young?" I could not agree with you more, Maggie. That is a very large part of the reason I am a Luke fan. I can even point to a time in my late teens when I feel I was really beginning to "grow up" and looked to Luke Skywalker's courage to face life and its troubles as a model for my own motivation.

Carolyn Cooper: Did you know the "Close the blast doors" line is still on the STORY OF SW album? Another missing line from ANH is in the scene where R2 is flashing the location of the tractor beam location and 3PO has a little explanation about there being seven locations and "a power loss at

one of the terminals will allow the ship to leave." I'm pretty sure about the beginning of that, but the part I quoted is (again) on the album. Curiouser and curioser.

Carole Regine: DRAGONSAYER is more than worth renting, and not just to see Ian McDiarmid. It has an excellent plot, wonderful acting by all (especially the principals--Peter MacNicol, Caitlin Clarke, and the late Sir Ralph Richardson), and ILM's best work outside of the trilogy. If you like a fantasy film with a gritty, realistic flavor, you'll love it. ((Ed: There truly are wonderful effects in this movie. There are scenes in which you'd swear the dragon is alive! And thanks to Matthew for pointing out McDiarmid. I recently saw this movie again and this time was very aware of his role!))

Back to McDiarmid himself, though. How about his "We are quite safe from your friends here" line? You can cut the utter contempt he hold for the rebels with a lightsaber. Absolutely perfect! I did like the hologram Emperor in TESB, by the way, but simply think McDiarmid was superlative.

About the ambiguities with the way Anakin is referred to, as both a "Jedi" and "pupil", at times; it is not uncommon for teachers to always think of their students as "students" even after they've completed their period of learning with that teacher. I recently by chance ran into one of my "students" who has since graduated, but to me she is still one of my students. Kenobi could be referring to Anakin/Dark as a "pupil" out of that same habit.

Kerri Smithline: Just nit picking, but Vader could be accountable for all the rebel pilots he shot down in the first Death Star battle, in addition to Antilles. As for him being a double agent, I don't buy it. It'd make an interesting alternate, but that's all.

Marlene Karkoska: A tip of the Darth Vader topper to you for EXCELLENT remarks on the Jedi and defending Luke's ability to rebuild them. It was like a complete essay within a LoC and I heartily agree with you. Take a bow for one of the most insightful, eloquent bits of writing in SE history.

Cheree: Love your choices for the characters' cars, especially Chewie in a beat-up, red VW beetle. Of course, it wouldn't be complete without a sunroof for him to pop his head out of to drive.

Thanks for the clarification and pronunciation of anagrams. As for FIJAGH, how 'bout "FI-jag", with the last part as in "jaguar"?

Ozzel a Rebel? Hum. Like with Vader as a double agent, I don't buy it. True, there are a few pieces of evidence that could lead to that theory, but I prefer the simpler explanation that Vader offed him in a pique over the fleet being discovered too early.

Several LoCers offered some very plausible additions to the explanations for why Vader has lost his temper and, consequently, several top officers (as well as a valuable prisoner--Antilles). Without going into detail, I'll just say I agree with all of you. Darth is a complex puzzle and there are a lot of pieces that can fit into it.

Fanfic for the fun of it? I'm with you! Going pro is not my ultimate goal, either. Right now, my stories are to please myself (as well as the reader, I hope) and to share some ideas with my fellow fans. Also, to a great extent I consider my fiction my own way of paying tribute to a series of films that has given me more than I could have ever hoped for. Going pro would be nice, and I do have a couple of saleable ideas (I think so, at least) for fiction/plays. Whether I ever have time to make them more

than notes on scrap paper, who knows, maybe I'll go for it. For now, I'm having fun and that's what counts.

Carolyn Golledge: The freeze bit was to be used on Luke because Vader was not confident he could control him during the trip to the Emperor (or at least control him without injuring him). Perhaps another reason is that DV intended to try to convince Luke to join him later, when they were off Bespin. By "putting him on ice", so to say, Darth could get Luke alone and then thaw him out of the carbonite and try to win him over. I'm sure it was never Vader's intention to allow the duel to go as far as it did before offering Luke the "deal". When Luke avoided the carbon freeze pit, DV may have resolved to try and salvage the rest of his plan without that portion, and thereby it did not work out as he'd intended.

You're right, of course, that it also allowed GL the option of removing the character of Solo if Ford did not agree to do ROTJ. I think GL tries his best to remain as faithful to his vision of the Saga, but puts in options in case things must be changed because of outside/real world limitations.

Barbara Gardner: I put the brakes on during your LoC when I came to "go back and read Ben's conversation." In the novelization you mean, correct? That's the reason for the brakes--I don't consider any of the novelizations canon. To me, the only things canon are the films themselves. Unfortunately, I am guilty of inconsistency because there are bits I pull out of books that I do consider valid (Palpatine as the Emperor's name, for one example). My only test is if they feel right to me, so it is totally subjective as well as unuseable for other fans (undefendable, too). If any of the films ever contradict anything in the novels, I go with the film version.

Back to Leia's place in the Alliance. As you say, and I cannot disprove, she may well head her own cell, but I did state in my LoC in SE#11 that her "apparent" demotion in ROTJ was probably simply due to the presence of higher-ups for the first time (for us).

Sandi Jones: Oh, oh. Now you've done it. You've given me a cause to get on another soap box. In your LoC, you address to Michelle Malkin the following, "I think you will agree that no type of training should ever be forced on a child." But we do, everyday, all types of training and should continue. We force them to learn good manners and how to care for themselves (from brushing after meals to cleaning behind ears) and other strenuous tasks, such as reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic. As parents and adults, we cannot wait until they decide it is a smart idea to keep themselves properly groomed and their rooms neat (or at least safe from fires). We have to force them to do it with a system of rewards and punishments. Would you have chosen to take Algebra I in high school? No way! I spent the last school year trying to convince 120 plus young people that it was a skill they'd need, that it was not a pointless lot of garbage they'd never see again--and even if they did later choose not to pursue higher math, they would have the knowledge of what the basics were so that their choice not to go on would be an informed choice.

Other things are forced on children that are for their benefit. I wish I had been pushed into learning to play a musical instrument. I'd love that ability, but the best time to learn it is at a young age. Now, even though I'd like to study music, I just do not have the time. Religion is also

pushed onto children. I was baptized without my consent, and raised as a Catholic. I do not wish my parents had not done so, as long as they don't hassle me now that I am an adult and can make my own choice whether I'll continue to practice that faith or not. At least I know something of their religion and have a foundation upon which to form my own beliefs.

Sandi, I hope you'll forgive me for that tirade (hope everyone else will also), but I just wanted to share my thoughts on the value of forcing training on children. The key, of course, is how it is done, and bad experiences with being pushed into something by parents (teachers, counselors, clergy, etc.) are probably in everyone's memories. Teaching is not an exact science, and errors are often painful.

Back to SW. I am glad I was wrong about your essay, Sandi. I think we can give credit for how well it was received to two reasons. (1) Because you had the firm backing of being right, and (2) because we have seen the pages of SE give over to nothing but intelligent, considerate discussion for the past several issues. And what a joy that is!

Has everyone seen LABYRINTH? Me? Twice, so far. I loved it. A classic fairy tale-type story right out of the WIZARD OF OZ and ALICE IN WONDERLAND veins. I'd go on, but the BMF has struck again. Thanks for another issue, gang! Follow the Force!

Golden Age of Fandom

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July 28, 1986

Down to the wire again--sheesh! Why does "August first" seem so far away when I'm reading SE in June--and then suddenly leap out and pounce on me at the last minute, when I realize it's nearly the end of July??!

Number 12 was another great issue [by the way, it seems hard to believe that there have already been 12 issues of SE]. Although, I bet you feel every issue of it!]. I loved your paean to Media-West*Con; I didn't get a Liltz, either--but I think I managed to do just about everything else on your list! The Fan Q was a BIG thrill! And just think: Only another nine months til MWC 7! [All zine eds: "Arrrrgghhh!!"] ((Ed: Actually I do have a Liltz on my wall, but no Fan Q *sob*. And, as for MWC being just nine months away...why does that make it seem like I'm expecting--and just before the con a brand-new zine will pop out into the world, with all the pains attendant upon birth??))

Maggie Nowakowska: Enjoyed your letter very much. I agree 100% with your puzzlement over fans' vilification of Ben Kenobi for using an admittedly narrow version of the truth with Luke concerning Vader. Of course, I originally came away from ANH with two heroes: Luke Skywalker and Ben Kenobi, so I'll admit to a little bias the other direction... okay! A LOT of bias! But I sometimes think from fan reaction that these are the only two characters in the Saga required to be perfect. Even poor Lando

didn't take this much heat!

Linda Kerry: I loved your comments on Maureen Garrett! Yes, sometimes one wonders that if this is the attitude of the person Lucasfilm has sent to represent them, just how much do they care about the fans?? The obvious answer, especially considering subsequent developments [or should that be "dismantlements"??] at the OSWFC, is "Not very much!!"

Tim Blaes: Read Cheree's editor's note to you on page 19; then go and re-read it again. Fine. Now do we have an understanding? The paltry sum we pay for letterzines barely pays for paper and postage; all the time and work Cheree donates on her own. This forum is a privilege, not a right. I've had the misfortune to try to decipher some of the hand-written and just plain poorly typed letters exchanged in the zine business, and believe me, what she does is a miracle: she makes a coherent letterzine out of all these letters, and she does it on time, four times a year!! Better walk ten miles in her Adidas before you take potshots at the job she does. [And as an aside, if you continue to refer to women fan with patronizing terms like "sweet-cakes", Tim, I'd guard more than my pancreas if I were you!]

Matthew Whitney: Hi! Somehow, you don't strike me as the "sweetcakes" type! I just wanted to say I agree with your overview of SW fan-compared-to-pro publishing. It's the understatement of the decade to say that none of us are getting rich publishing fanzines; some of us are headed for the poorhouse! [Do they still have poorhouses??] ((Ed: I don't think so, but can we file for reorganization under the bankruptcy laws?)) I agree with you on the quality of many fan writers, too; people like Carolyn Golledge and Ellen Randolph and Jenni Hennig could write almost anything, and I would buy it. A lot of pro SF is shoddy in comparison. But a lot of fan writers have no interest in going pro, and that's fine, too. Reminds me of the late Harry Chapin's song about the tailor who made the mistake of trying to go pro with his singing, and had it ruin singing for him. For many of us, writing is "our life, not our livelihood." We do it because of the way it makes us feel, a compulsion that may not extend to having our work mass-published. [P.S. I'm not speaking for myself here--I'd love to go pro!!] ((Ed: Reminds me of an event that happened here in Dallas a couple of years ago. A local radio station sponsored a "Let Us Make You a Star" contest, searching for a new singing talent. The promotion started as a joke, the station figuring that all the sub-talented people who would enter would make for a good laugh. It backfired on them when a truly wonderful lady entered--a beautiful, strong, sweet voice like Olivia Newton-John at her best. It was no contest and she won to huge local acclaim. True to their word, the station sponsored her in a professional singing debut at a club here and recorded her in station jingles, as well as other engagements for about a month. She was so good that a record company sent a representative who offered her a contract. But, after a month of pro singing, she decided it wasn't for her. So, she retired and went back to work as a clerk at Sears.))

Pat Nussman: Hey, this slides right into the comment I had marked in your letter! If writing ceases to be fun, and--horrors!--becomes "a job" to be done, then I think the writer has lost something of value in their life. We all have had the experience of "having" to write something, starting right in there with grade school reports and term

papers. Remember how much fun that was?! That's why fan writing is such a charge; imagine chafing to write something, just champing at the bit to write something, because you really want to. If fan writing ever ceases to inspire that in me, I would stop writing it.

Sandra Necchi: Hi, Sandy! I've got your letter so marked up, even I can no longer figure out what I was so excited about! I guess I'll just try to over-simplify my reactions and say that your observations, like most people opinions, are based on a healthy dose of the truth. But I think you're tarring a little too widely with your brush. You may have been exposed to the most incredible louts this country has to offer; but not everyone I know is as ignorant, as self-centered, as "globally ego-centric" as your letter portrays them to be. There are Americans who know what it means to be a citizen of the world.

Sally Syrjala: I loved your comments on Lucasfilm and fandom, especially when contrasted to ST fandom. I was a ST fan long before SW existed (although never in an organized fashion), and maybe IDIC is embedded in my fannish bones; or maybe I was just born to Question Authority!

General comments: Well, so far, as near as we can tell, the death of the OSWFC has not made much of a ripple in fandom's pond. Just how important were these guys, anyway? Gossip columnists seem to be a better source of information [it all was always denied by LFL anyway--even when it was true!]. Maybe we will enter a new Golden Age of Fandom. I'm heartened to see many new zines proposed, some of them all-SW. My interest in the genre has not faded at all, and in addition, I have found new interests in other media fandoms. (It's all those darn zines! They get me hooked on TV shows I never even watched before!!) I wouldn't hold my breath and hang from a tree waiting for the next trilogy; but you know darned well, if it were announced tomorrow, fandom would be willing and ready! Which is more of a tribute to fandom than LFL. Hell, I wouldn't even want to swing from a rope waiting for *Indy III*! But if it ever gets here, you know we'll all go see it --repeatedly.

A request to all the fan writers and would-be fan writers in the audience: In our next issue of *THE WOOKIEE COMMODE*, we'd like to feature post-ROTJ stories as much as possible. (This does not mean we're not looking for other material! We just would like to put special emphasis on the post-ROTJ speculation.) Here's your chance to put all those ideas to work! Submissions of any sort can be sent to Samia Martz, 78 Council Tree, Warrensburg, MO 64093.

Secular Humanism

Bev Clark
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July 25, 1986

Here in an under-the-wire LoC, not as detailed as I'd hoped, alas. You probably will understand the reason: my boss is out of town for several

weeks and I'm doing her job as well as my own. Needless to say, this is creating a certain amount of overwork--and a couple of unexpected projects have hit me, too. So, I haven't had much time for fannish activities, or even reading this past week.

Going back to #11 for a couple of paragraphs:

I was wrong about the membership of the SW fan club in my LoC in SE#10. At the time I wrote, it was actually closer to 35,000 than 250,000, which I didn't know until later; the higher number was the peak membership. The drop in membership was one of the main reasons Lucasfilm dropped the fan club (if, in fact, it is actually and officially dumped), along with all its other "ancillary functions" (personnel, publishing, marketing--all the administrative functions that take, rather than make, money). The point I was making still holds, though: our fandom is too small a percentage to much influence Lucasfilm's behavior towards fans in general.

From #11 also, there is the definition of "secular humanism". Michelle Malkin's and others' definitions are all very well, but they won't help Carolyn Golledge understand how the term is used by the people who use it most, generally fundamentalist Christians. The important thing to remember is that to those people it's an insult and a term of opprobrium applied to anything and everything they don't like--kind of like "fascist pig" and "pinky sympathizer" as used by other groups.

What secular humanism is by dictionary definition--its denotation--is a philosophical position that holds human beings as the measure of all things. It's secular as opposed to religious, specifically Christian, humanism, which was a 16th century philosophy held by Erasmus and others that emphasized human interests in a religious context and drew on Greek and Latin learning to supplement traditional Christian teachings. The philosophical position of secular humanists is explicitly held by the American Humanist Association and spelled out in something called the Humanist Manifesto. Though the AHA is very small--only a few thousand members it includes some illustrious people; Isaac Asimov is the current president.

The fundamentalists consider the American Humanist Association to be a religion, and they further assume that it is deliberately and maliciously dedicated to the overthrow of Christianity--and that it has immense influence despite its small membership (another example of the conspiracy theories the far right seems to be so fond of). Because secular humanism as held by the AHA specifically rejects a deity, and the fundamentalists consider any philosophy that doesn't put a deity (specifically their interpretation of a deity) at the center of the universe is evil, they consider secular humanism the embodiment of evil. And they claim that all the ills of the modern world stem from this particular variety of "evil", both those ills admitted by everyone and ills perceived as problems only by the fundamentalists--abortion, divorce, sexual abuse of children, teenage pregnancy, the abandonment of the gold standard, welfare, drugs, alcoholism, feminism, herpes, AIDS, depression and mental illness in general, Russian expansionism, and prohibition of prayer in schools, not to mention, worst of all (gasp), evolution.

This may sound crackpot, and far from any concerns we have as SW fans. But read or listen to some of the propaganda on this subject and we ought to worry. There's a woman in Sacramento who tried to mount a campaign to ban SW and ET on the grounds that they portrayed "magic" in a positive light

(when everyone knows it's evil because the Bible says it is...) and might corrupt young people; she allowed as how Lucas and Spielberg were not actively Satanists but suspected they were being used by Satanic forces. In the case currently in litigation in Tennessee, the fundamentalists object to THE WIZARD OF OZ, because it portrays witches as good; any story in which "mental telepathy" appears, because telepathy is the prerogative of God and the story is thus sacrilegious; any fairy tales or fantasy that show magic in a positive or neutral light. They even object to C. S. Lewis! (On what grounds I'd love to know.) These people are dangerous; they're gaining power; and they know how and are willing to use that power.

((Ed: I was raised a Southern Baptist and consider myself a fairly devout Christian, but I couldn't agree more with Bev. Things got so bad at the church I was attending, that I could not in good conscience remain a member. Hellfire and brimstone I can take, but not religious elitism (a "We're the Chosen Ones and nobody else" attitude), hatred of other groups (Mormons, Hare Krishnas, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Catholics were all big on the list), militant ignorance (almost at a book-burning level), and general intolerance. The power these people have nowadays amazes me. Some of it is comic--I worked with a woman who despised ET because he represented "hope for the future" (?). There's a woman in Dallas now who is picketing Sound Warehouse record stores for selling Satanic (i.e., rock) music. Sometimes their actions are borderline comic/tragic. Glen Rose, Texas, is famous for its incredible dinosaur tracks, long trackways that show at least three types of dinosaurs, the most spectacular of which shows a carnivorous stalking a brontosaurus, even stepping in its footprints as it closed in. But the fundamentalist factions that rule the town have for years been attempting to "prove" that man existed alongside the dinosaurs, thereby "proving" creationism. They have gone so far as to chisel out "mantracks" into the dinosaur trackways. Sometimes, however, there is no funny side to it at all--specifically when it involves bombing abortion clinics in the name of life, or banning biology textbooks that mention evolution. I agree with Bev; these people are dangerous! And my blood runs cold at the thought of Pat Robertson as President!))

Away from politics...

Maggie's comment about the demographics of SF readers determining the nature of book covers is valid--except that a couple of recent studies show that the "common wisdom" about the demographics of SF readers is not true. As was reported in LOCUS recently, a group of SF publishers commissioned a market survey of the readership; and ANALOG also did a demographic survey of its readers. The two surveys showed remarkably similar results--and also agreed with the results of LOCUS' annual poll of its readers, which seems to indicate that while LOCUS' readers are more actively fannish, they represent the general readership of SF very well. The findings: while SF readers are still predominantly male (c. 70% to 75% in all three surveys), they are also early middle aged (33-36 were the median and average ages) rather than adolescent, extremely well educated (two thirds have college degrees, over 90% have some college), affluent (average family income over \$40,000, compared to \$27,000 for the general population), technically sophisticated (almost half own computers, more than half use them at home or at work); and in managerial, professional or tech-

nical occupations. The results came as a surprise to the publishers, and at the SFWA weekend this spring, a panel of editors agreed that these demographics will be affecting the kinds of manuscripts they are looking for and the kinds of covers they will commission, although changes will not be immediately apparent. In other words, assuming that men in their 30's are somewhat less interested in impossibly buxom and suggestive female figures, we may actually start to see some covers that don't actively repel women.

On the BNF issue: anyone can get to be a BNF. Just edit a fanzine, and if it's reasonably decent, by the second or third issue, most of fandom will know who you are. Which is not necessarily a good thing if you don't have that much time to answer mail...

Now I always assumed that Vader did know that Luke meant Leia when he referred to his sister. I don't think I have a logical--i.e., conscious--reason for thinking this, except that Luke's reaction to Vader's learning about the sister was so immediate and ferocious that I assumed he himself knew he had been thinking specifically sister=Leia. Maybe this depends on how Luke thinks and how much we assume Vader was reading his mind at the time. That is, if Vader was tapped in to Luke's mind, and Luke thinks in images (most people do) to any extent, he could have picked up the sister's identity from the image that appeared in Luke's mind when he said "sister". (I'm further assuming that Luke's emotional state at this point is such that he is making little effective attempt to shield his thoughts.) On the other hand, the people who believe Vader didn't know that Leia was the sister in question have good points, too. This sounds like an issue that can only be settled--sort of--in stories!

This leads into an issue that has come up repeatedly, and that's how Vader could have not known that Leia was his daughter, considering that he interrogated her in ANH and presumably tried to pick her brains mentally when she was in his grasp. Why does everyone assume that this genetic identification is there in the brain for all to see--when Leia herself doesn't know that her real father was Anakin Skywalker? Unless you assume that biological relationships are somehow obvious at the level of biology or "aura" or something, there's no reason Vader should have known about Leia, even if he did read her mind at some point. He didn't know about Luke at first; all he knew was that the x-wing was flown by someone in whom the Force was very strong. Presumably he learned the identity of the pilot at some time between the times of ANH and TESB. Or at least put two and two together (by reviewing data from Tatooine; at some point in the investigation of that event it's sure to have come out that the third member of the Lars household was not killed in the Stormtrooper attack--and this third member bore what was, to Darth, a highly significant name).

As for why Darth didn't perceive Leia's Force abilities: actually, there is no real evidence either way, though admittedly the indirect evidence (Vader never says anything even hinting that he has recognized a Forceful potential in Leia) is that she is not radiating any Forcefulness, at least that Vader recognizes. But there are ways of explaining this: she has learned common shielding techniques as a diplomat; she unconsciously shields; shields were placed in her mind as an infant, as Maggie suggests; Force ability does not consciously awaken in any way that can be sensed by others unless someone deliberately wakes it, as someone

else suggested. I'd tend to vote for the latter explanation at this point, also due to lack of evidence. That is, for the same reasons you would expect (Lucas to have had) Vader say something if he had detected Forcefulness in Leia, you would have expected a comment or interest at the presence of shields that shouldn't be there. Unless, of course, the shields were common among diplomatic types in a universe in which telepathic abilities were a reality or were set up in such a way as to give the impression of an unForceful mind. Again, we don't know, we're not likely to even if there are more SW movies, and interesting stories could be written around any one of these premises.

Alas, I regret to inform Kerri Smithline that SW has indeed been compared to the Bible, in a book published by a religious type shortly after the movie came out. Fortunately, no one has yet claimed that SW is infallible.

I wasn't going to say anything about the SW/SDI lawsuit but I can't resist. The specific focus of the lawsuit was not on the general use of SW to refer to the SDI, but on an ad campaign paid for and run on TV by the High Frontier Foundation (not the government, although many former government and military officials belong to the HFF). This campaign featured a TV ad specifically equating SW with the SDI--it defined SW as SDI, and used a child as the focal point. In other words, it seemed a deliberate attempt to confuse the issue. Lucasfilm had sent out "cease and desist" letters to HFF, the Union of Concerned Scientists (about its use of SW to refer to the SDI in some literature), and even to the White House. Mirabile dictu, the President agreed not to use SW for the SDI anymore (this is one time when his fondness for business probably was of benefit, because he probably realized the implications to business of losing a trademark), the Union of Concerned Scientists agreed not to use it (at least until the lawsuit was decided). The HFF basically said, "Fuck you, we'll do what we want." At that point Lucasfilm filed suit. Rumor hath it also that the reason Lucas chose this use was that he was incensed over the use of a child in this particular ad. It would have been better for its case had Lucasfilm been hard-nosed from the first misuse of SW; they lost because they had failed to protect the trademark earlier, by allowing newspapers and other media to use it without attempting to stop the use. A trademark must be assiduously protected, unlike a copyright. How assiduously? If you put out a newsletter that goes to 50 people, and you use the word "xerox" to mean "photocopy" and Xerox gets hold the letter, you will get a strongly worded letter from Xerox's legal department advising you not to misuse "Xerox" in similar fashion again or you will be sued for trademark infringement.

Actually, you can infringe on a copyright by publishing, period, whether or not it's for profit. You can infringe by publishing two copies of something and sending one to someone else. Where the difference lies is in whether you knew you were infringing. If you did, you are liable for criminal as well as civil penalties. In practice, if you weren't infringing for profit, even if you were infringing knowingly, you're not likely to be assessed much in the way of penalties, though you'll probably have to give up your masters, all unsold stock, and any printing plates and so on. But let's not get into this again; it went on too long once before.

I like the point Matthew Whitney makes in rela-

tion to droid intelligence and rights: from what we have seen in SW, it appears that a droid can "die" but still be brought back to perfect normality, something only possible with a mechanical device. This leads into a sort of philosophical point. That is, even if it is possible to make a droid or a computer that is intelligent and sentient in the sense we apply those terms to human beings, I suspect that human (and other living) beings will not allow them to be made. They will deliberately keep computers just below that level. And the reason is what Matthew alludes to: a droid or robot that can be repaired when it "dies" has an immense superiority over biological beings, who generally can't be. This is terribly threatening to biologicals even in theory; and depending on how the droids themselves reacted to the knowledge of essential immortality, could be in reality as well. (Of course, if computer intelligence is of the same nature as human, it could be that while a droid could be mechanically repaired, it wouldn't be the same individual because its "mind" would have been affected by the repair. In that case, biologicals might not object to truly intelligent mechanicals particularly.)

Finally, there is yet another subject in which I strongly suspect I do not agree with most fans. That is the nomination of UNIVERSAL TRANSLATER for a Hugo. I do not think it should have been nominated, and I did not vote for it. It's not that I don't respect and like UT; I do. It is very good at what it does, and it's immensely useful to everyone in media fandom. However, it is not a "fanzine" in the sense that either SF or media fandom defines a fanzine. It should no more be nominated for a fanzine Hugo than the Barnes and Noble catalog (which is also excellent for what it does) should be nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

That's my philosophical point. More pragmatically, this nomination is not winning us any points with SF fandom. It's not the bloc voting aspect--that's happened with SF fanzines, and in at least one case won the fanzine the Hugo--so much as our credibility. A lot of the SF fans who dislike media fans ridicule our fanzines without ever having seen one; now that a sort of media fanzine has made the Hugo ballot, these people feel that they were justified in their ridicule. Even some fans who were sympathetic have lost sympathy in this particular regard. There has been an ad campaign among SF fans urging a boycott of the fanzine Hugo altogether. I'll agree that this is childish and reflects badly on the fans mounting the campaign. (I also think there's more than UT involved; there's also a costuming fanzine on the ballot, and the editor of one of the SF fanzines has been on the opposite side of some fannish feuds, including a current one, from almost everyone who signed the ad.) But if part of the point of the campaign for the nomination was to make points with SF fans (or to get some sort of revenge on them), as I get the impression it was, it's not working. Better to try it with something that's at least representative of what media fans consider an excellent and typical fanzine--GUARDIAN, for instance, or even SOUTHERN ENCLAVE itself.

I want to repeat that I mean no denigration of UT or its editors here, and I'm sorry if they're hurt by any of my comments. I respect their efforts and their achievements, and I am personally glad for them that they were nominated, although I am philosophically opposed to the nomination.

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July 25, 1986

Loved your poem, Cheree! We'll be there next year!

Inflation strikes again, eh?

From Barb:

Lin Ward: Maybe Luke didn't actually remember seeing Kenobi as real, but as a dream, hence his saying "It's like something out of a dream". He "remembered" Dagobah in that way, without having been there.

You have my sympathies, Cheree. Sometimes its all I can do to drag out the typewriter for personal correspondence; a zine must be the pits.

Marlene Karkoska: Excellent remarks on the Jedi, basically I agree. Perhaps they became too complacent, rather than corrupt. Perhaps they knew of the Old Republic's problems and tried to correct them, but were unable to, due to a lack of support.

Matthew Whitney: I agree that Han would have rock and roll on the Falcon. I think he might like Springsteen.

Mary Urhausen: Thank you for your clarification. It's too bad we can't all get along with each other. Life is too short to do otherwise.

Your remarks on SDI are right on!

Carolyn Golledge: Well, Vader may or may not have done Han a favor by freezing him. Personally, I don't think so. He suffered a great deal all that time. Fortunately, Jabba preferred to hang him on the wall, rather than thaw him. It might have been merciful to kill Han, if we assume there would have been no one to rescue him. But I see your point, and maybe having Han arrive in the condition he did, diverted Jabba from other methods of punishment.

Sandra Necchi: You say there is very little investigative, non-ideological journalism. But if there is no such thing as objective truth, then there are only various kinds of subjective truth; therefore, the media must choose which one it wants to follow, and drop any pretense at objectivity. But then it would have an ideological slant (right, left, or whatever), wouldn't it? Please correct me if I interpreted you wrongly.

I can agree with some of what you said, up to a point. I have numerous disagreements with TIME, but don't consider it useless because it is mainstream.

I don't think the Alliance will try to restore the Old Republic. Rather, they will take the best things from it and build on those.

Barbara Gardner: Drop Pam and I a line here in Denver after you reach the Academy, if you feel like it. And I'm glad you want to go into space.

What do I want from LFL? More films, but only if they really want to do them.

A friend of mine commented in a recent letter on the prevalence of "get" stories. We do tend to put the characters in dire physical straits quite often; Han, especially, comes in for more than his share of abuse. Of course, it makes for an exciting story to have the characters in danger, but often we get a bit too carried away. Any ideas on why there are so many such stories and why we (myself

included) read them? I must confess, part of me goes "Aack!" while the other part continues reading in horrified fascination.

Personally, I think Marquand did a good job. Each of the three films has its own flavor and its own particular attractions for me.

From Pam:

Linda Kerry: Better check with the editor of ECHO SEVEN. Here's the address: Darla Doxstater, PO Box 1704, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. I got mine shortly after it got back from the printers. Make sure you xerox the front and back of your cancelled check for Darla to see.

Kerri Smithline: How's this? Force sensitive equals kindergarten, student Jedi equals grade school, full Jedi equals high school, Jedi master equals college. Each level implies a greater knowledge and refinement of foundation skills. Like school, some are accelerated, some are average, some are undoubtedly slow. Each student would have to advance according to his/her/its abilities.

Sally Smith: On the ROTJ video, that's what you have to put up with when you get a video of a 70mm movie. It's just not successfully adaptable to a small screen. Amen to the sound, Cheree; El Slimeball and Hibatchi Face make a distinct sound impression!

Carolyn Golledge: G'day, mate! What's a Burrawong?

That's all there is. Bye!

SF Books

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July 28, 1986

Another fine issue of SE to comment on - you're doing an admirable job of attracting interesting letters, Madame Editor!

Maggie Nowakowska: Your clear definition of "personal attack" is very welcome. So's your comment on libel. As for the attacks on Kenobi as a liar, totally unworthy, etc., because he misled Luke, I file it with Luke-bashing and Han-bashing--a character has to be totally good or totally evil, in some people's minds. There are no shades of gray to make a character realistic to this way of thinking. One unadmirable act or personality trait knocks the hero off the pedestal completely. I don't understand this attitude myself, and when I see or hear it expressed (mundanely as well as fanishly!), I have a hard time accepting that this supposedly intelligent, rational person is serious. But apparently a number of people in fandom have a need for absolute perfection in their heroes, and consider the slightest deviation from their personal ideas of heroism to be the worst sort of treason. Sigh. Thanks for your comments on the rights of creators of characters, also.

Linda Kerry: Thanks very much for the news

that two new Skyrider books are coming up! I've enjoyed the series so far in spite of the truly awful (embarrassingly BAD, not pornographic) covers. It's about time space opera got a good female lead for a change.

Carole Regine: Thanks to YOU for your questioning whether Yoda's OPINION makes something right or wrong. He's only a mortal and fallible, after all. (I almost said only human!)

Lin Ward: Your friend with the SF ENCYCLOPEDIA is partly right about 40's and 50's sf plots. But there was a lot of sociology coming out, and a lot of philosophical discussion. Not to mention robots, exploration, alien contacts--hardly "all wars and rockets"! As for when women started reading sf, I really can't speak for anyone but myself, and I started in the early 50's (well, maybe 1954); I'd been listening to a radio show called SPACE PATROL for several years, and came across Heinlein's ROCKET SHIP GALILEO as I worked my way thru the shelves of the kids' section of the library. I was thrilled to find they actually wrote BOOKS about this sort of thing! RSG wasn't very good, but I decided to give the author one more try and read SPACE CADET. And became hooked for life. I was about 10 at the time, I think, MAYBE 9. Didn't discover Bradbury, Clarke, Norton, and a few others till I could go into the young adult section, but fortunately the library had a large section of RAH to keep me going (with lots of rereading!). Personally, I think part of the reason for the low female readership back then and a while longer was the strong prejudice against girls and women showing any interest in science. SF was definitely considered "boys' books" and was listed as such on suggested reading lists (blue for boys, pink for girls at my library --I kid you not!). I found the boys' books were usually more interesting than the "girls' books" (with some exceptions, granted) and didn't care if people thought I was weird. But it took a thick skin to indulge personal taste that way. As for sf with heavier characterization, Heinlein's PODKAYNE OF MARS was specifically aimed at girls--and the characterization stank! I read it as an adult, but I can imagine a girl being totally turned off sf if that was the 1st thing she read. Podkayne is one of the most obnoxious, stereotyped, unpleasant females in sf, for any age. But at that, she's a typical RAH female. So it goes.

Tim Blaes: Love your game module with Smurf-troopers and Commie Care Bears. I'd have a problem, though, unless the Earth side of the triangle could go for BOTH of the others. Revolting little creatures, all of them!

Mary Urhausen: Re your comment on the quieting down of the tone of the LoCs recently--AMEN! As for my previous sf vs. f statements: can't find my previous issue or the carbon of my letter at the moment (my workroom has been torn up for remodeling), but I'm sorry if I gave you the wrong impression. It's not fantasy per se I consider a threat, it's the flood of look-alike titles that seem to be largely representing the field these days. I do like Hambly, Eddings, and MacEvoy very much, by the way, and will pick up anything by them. And there are others, granted. But there are so many NOT up to that high standard! Granted, there's a lot of bad sf, too. But (and please remember that I prefer sf to fantasy, if I have a choice) I've found a larger proportion of sf readable, by my standards (I hate to leave a book unfinished, but I've left a higher proportion of fantasy undone than sf, by far. And that includes books recommended by friends). I

think what set me off last time was seeing the flood of copycat barbarian-with-sword-or-blaster (male and female), dragons, horses, scantily clad or pseudo mediievally-clad characters, Tolkein rip-offs, reworkings (and massacrengs!) of various mythologies, in two or three bookstores within a week. But my reaction had been building up for a long time before that. I'm not going to cite names or titles, those I can remember anyway, because I don't want to end up at the bottom of a pile of angry fans of various fantasy writers. Yes, some fantasy is well written, intelligent, entertaining, thought-provoking--but all too much seems to be churned out by people who think that fantasy is easy to write because you don't have to know anything about science or current events, all you have to do is make up something that sounds like fun and lets the characters run around in fancy costumes. (By the way, I find most mainstream fiction boring, too--unoriginal plots and/or ideas, dull characters made of soggy cardboard, uninteresting style. Really, I'm not trying to pick on fantasy alone!) ((Ed: I'm with you, Chris. I hadn't noticed the influx of copycat fantasies until you brought it up, then I went and stood in my local Waldenbooks poring over the entire sf&f section. I've done this repeatedly, searching for a book that grabs my interest enough to buy it. I haven't found it yet. Likewise, I don't read much mainstream fiction either. The only mainstream novel I've bought in a long time is THE FAR PAVILIONS by M. M. Kaye, but only after I'd seen the HBO production and become interested in reading it. The last really good fantasy I read was THE MISTS OF AVALON by Marion Zimmer Bradley. I have found in the last few years that I read mainly science books, histories or biographies of historical characters. Very little fiction has grabbed my interest lately.))

Sandra Necchi: Re your mention of "Project Censored", I came across a mention of it in a recent issue of THE PROGRESSIVE.

Carol Peters: I saw Luke's vision in the cave as a warning to him of a possible future fall--he DID ignore Yoda's advice not to take his weapon. And given his personality (impulsive, easily angered, lack of patience) at that point in his training, he needed a warning that he wasn't immune to the Dark Side. And if Lucas had any ideas in the back of his mind at that point, it might have been a hint of things to come in the next 2 movies.

Looks like a good summer for movies: LABYRINTH (which I've seen 4 times--I became an instant Bowie fan on the 1st viewing!) and ALIENS (hope to see in a few days in 70mm). Imagine, TWO sf/f films with strong female leads! LABYRINTH has its problems (paintings and blue screen are not very well done a couple of times; Jennifer Connolly isn't the best young actress around; the final scene in the film as opposed to the novelization seems to undercut a lot of what's gone before; the Fireys scene could have been cut to about a fourth the length as far as I was concerned!), but nothing's perfect. Hoggle the dwarf is as much as real person as Yoda; David Bowie is sinister and sexy; the Escher set in the castle is marvelous; Connolly's Sara is straight forward, intelligent, un-squeamish; there are enough elements of known fantasy, books, movies, psychology to keep a discussion going for hours but it's an enjoyable visual/story treat for children without condescending to them. I've noticed an interesting trend among reviewers: men tend to see it as an Oz remake, rather boring if pleasant enough visually while women see it as a rite of passage story, and

notice the various elements besides Oz. A friend saw it with her boyfriend; friend enjoyed it right from the start, he was bored. About halfway thru, he made some comment that prompted my friend to say it was OBVIOUSLY a coming-of-age story, with a girl instead of a boy (as they usually are, at least in movies). His reaction: "OH!...Yeah, you're right, I just didn't see it that way at all." He enjoyed the rest of the show, having gotten a handle on it. I'd be interested in seeing other people's reactions, and especially what references they picked up. I saw a variety: the dog Merlin/Ambrosius (that's one no reviewer I've seen yet picked up on); Sendak characters, especially Luto, based on WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE (have to find the books and see what else); Cinderella at the ball, complete with chiming clock at midnight; Sara putting on the magic cap as she talks about the goblins and the goblins hearing her; the poison fruit; a slew of direct and indirect ALICE references: down the rabbit hole (twice!), things aren't what they seem here, the use of logic, the need to ask exactly the right question, "You have no power over me" being the "magic words" to defeat the Goblin King and send Sara and Toby home at exactly midnight as the equivalent of Alice's "You're nothing but a pack of cards" that ends her dream with the destruction of the mock trial, and sends her back to reality; the Firey making a small fire and the group dancing around it reminiscent of the dancing demons in FANTASIA; Sir Didymus as a canine Quixote as well as (mentioned by reviewers; I didn't remember it) the incredibly dedicated knight in HOLY GRAIL; what sounds like a couple of bars of the theme from ROTL as the group reaches the castle gate; the theme of the girl going to rescue her baby brother from the goblins, based, I think, somewhat on a Sendak book (SOMEWHERE OVER THERE or something like that?); the overall quest theme, including acquiring travelling companions (WHY were the male reviewers so obtuse here? If the lead character had been a boy, they'd have picked it up right away. But then, girls don't go on quests, do they? Except Dorothy, and she just wanted to go home.). Did anyone else think that one of the women dancing with the Goblin King in the ballroom scene looked vaguely like the stepmother? It wasn't--I checked the credits--but it would have fit in beautifully. My problem with the last scene is that it seems to undermine the theme of maturity at the end. The novelization was much quieter and more in keeping with the theme (the characters show up one by one at her window, have a short conversation, and fade away). The owl is interesting, too--sinister, a creature of the night, but it's also a symbol of wisdom--in spite of the cutesy last scene, Sara in her quest and encounter with the Goblin King HAS acquired wisdom concerning herself. Hmm, the owl flies off toward the full moon in the very last shot--wisdom and the maiden. Interesting. Wonder if that was intended, or if I'm reading something into what Henson and Co. considered just a lovely effective ending? Anyway, I like it better each time I see it. Hope to get in at least one more viewing before it leaves the local theater. As for some people's "Oz remake" reaction, personally I saw very little of Oz except the bubbles and the Luto/Lion match; the fact that she acquired 3 companions doesn't make her Dorothy. After all, acquiring companions on the road is a standard element of the quest and three is a reasonable (as well as magical) number. To me Sara was Alice, if anything specific from the past: she wanted to reach the center of a maze; she used logic in an illogical

place; she had to ask the right questions; she accepted the place on its own terms after initial rebellion; she was brave and resourceful, going on in spite of obstacles; she stood up to the local monarch and won. And, in a way, she reversed the looking-glass world, twice--instead of entering a fantasy, she escaped from fantasy imposed on her (the ballroom and the replica of her bedroom) by smashing the mirrors to get back to the current reality. I hope the movie does well, among children as well as older viewers--a fantasy with a female hero who acts as well as reacts is a rarity still, and Sara is a better role model than a lot of what gets on screen in either theater or TV. The children in the rather small audiences I've seen it with have apparently enjoyed it, and so have the teens and adults judging by occasional overheard comments.

Jedi Mind Tricks

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July 24, 1986

It's so good to hear from you all again! I especially appreciate the responses given me on LoC-writing; they've been very helpful, and now I can tackle that big list of pending LoCs.

Maggie Nowakowska: I agree that Cherryh's portrayal of the azi's plight is really chilling, with learning tapes to show them how to make love, but nothing about birth control; with pre-determined timed deaths; with crowded growth labs and transport ships. I think I can understand cloning people because you need more of certain skills in a society, and hope to increase the probability of more people going into medicine, for example. I'd see them as being given to eager, childless families, and possibly never even identified as clones. Raising vats of slaves, or second-class citizens, is anathema to me, but I suppose once the technology became available, it would be very difficult to regulate underground labs and such.

Carole Regine: Yoda gets more mysterious all the time! The idea of his "ancient history" would make a fascinating story! Who knows, maybe Yoda was the father of our race? That would explain why he wondered how Luke could grow so tall? Ha!

Kerri Smithline: Good thought that Leia could've had Force-visions of her mother. Here's one suggestion to get the discussion rolling on Force abilities: A Force-sensitive has untrained, uncontrolled abilities, such as inexplicable flashes of intuition; a student Jedi has more control, can meditate, see flashes of the future, communicate telepathically and sporadically with people nearby, and can manage minor telekinetic tricks. A full Jedi has complete control of meditation, can communicate telepathically at will, control other people's thoughts for short periods of time, and move things telekinetically that are nearby. A Jedi Master has deep meditative control, can communicate telepathically, move more objects at a farther distance than most, manage more psychic tasks simultaneously than

others, and apparently, can come back from the dead on a blue screen (ha ha). Seriously, now, if every Jedi can come back, why didn't Luke have a whole battalion of Jedi assisting him, or consulting him, or whatever. These vague guidelines are what I've extrapolated from the films, by comparing the different Jedi's actions. If Luke was an extraordinary trainee, then this may be a best-case scenario.

Matthew Whitney: Loved your musical choices for Our Heroes! It's hard to visualize what music Luke might like, but I'd suggest some nature-oriented classics, like PEER GYNT and Handel's WATER MUSIC. (The Tatooine National Anthem.) Much of Aaron Copland's music has a sort of fresh pioneer vitality that might appeal to someone who's starting a new Jedi Order, or new find-and-and-train-espers program, or whatever. Wouldn't FANFARE FOR THE COMMON MAN make a beautiful theme for Jedi initiations?

Cheree: Loved your ideas for everyone's cars, too!

The issue of mechanicals' rights seems more grave to me with each round of discussion. An individual who can make value judgments such as "he's a nice man", or "this is a pretty place", who feels pain, fear, and other emotions deserves at least some consideration. In ROBOTS OF DAWN, one of the main characters marries a robot. I think society will have to take a careful look at this issue in future generations. It also occurs to me that the way we come to treat human-like mechanicals could later influence our treatment of clones.

Pat Nussman: I agree, Carol Hines-Stroede's AND HE IS US is fascinating, and lends quite a different outlook to the Rebellion. I loved Vader's charge to Luke to see that the Alliance was no worse than it had to be.

About programming mechanicals, if we ever develop droids that can think for themselves, I don't feel the programming argument would hold much water, because by the time you're working with that level of intelligence, wouldn't the information input to a droid, who would then make its own decisions based on what we input, begin to resemble the information we input into our children, who then make their own decisions? Hmm, pretty soon, we'll all be "raising" our own clones and mechanicals. Is that the TZ theme music I hear?

Sherryl Herrly: You don't have to be a Vader fan to love Carol Hines-Stroede's writing! Although I could almost become one after reading her novel DRAGON'S TEETH. I didn't come down for a week! What a sexy guy!

Dr. Mary Urhausen: I agree that "Star Wars" has become like a modern myth, setting unique and distinctive standards, and as such, has passed into popular domain, like "xerox" copies, and "kleenex" tissue, and it appears that Lucas will have to take the good fame with the bad.

Carolyn Golledge: As of Fall, '85, the address for A FARAWAY GALAXY is: Extequer Press, POB 60193, Pasadena, CA 91106 (Note: these editors may require a few follow-ups).

Your description of Vader's behavior rings true --flash temper, arrogance, and show-offishness--what other pleasures does he appear to have available besides such self-indulgent power plays and temper tantrums?

Enjoyed your comments on mechanical sentience. In the Downbelow cycle books mentioned by Maggie, humans and clones could be mind-wiped and reprogrammed! I've read lots of SF where such reprogramming is the answer to crime in future societies.

Good luck on finding a more reputable printer!

Sally Syrjala: Agree with you--how could we ever determine which individuals have a soul? Sounds like an angels-dancing-on-the-head-of-a-pin issue to me.

Carol Peters: The question about Luke's experience in the cave is a fun one to chew on, because it looks as if we'll never get an official interpretation. I think Luke might have been fighting himself, perhaps fighting acceptance of his abilities (he couldn't raise his ship because he didn't believe). It might have been a lesson to him of what happens when he "gives in to hate" and tastes the Dark Side. Perhaps it was an oblique reference to his relationship to Vader; maybe it's one reason why Luke felt the truth when Vader told him. The experience may also have been showing that both men had some of the same failings, and that Luke would have to learn to behave differently if he wanted to avoid Vader's fate. Maybe it meant that he had the potential to fall to the Dark Side and even what specifically the path would be if he tried to fight Vader. It may have been a clue that he shouldn't fight Darth, lest he lose himself (either his soul or his hand), or that perhaps he shouldn't fight Vader on Vader's terms, but should confront him on his own, nonaggressive terms ("your weapons, you will not need them"). What would Luke have learned if he'd left his weapons before entering the cave?

I'm so sorry to hear about your accident! In Richmond, there has been an all-out campaign against drunken driving in the past 3 years, lowering the illegal blood alcohol content, sending droves of police out on holiday weekends, running big radio and TV campaigns, setting up volunteer chauffeur groups, and bars advertising free non-alcoholic beverages for the driver in a given group. I hope the momentum continues, and spreads to combat all kinds of drug use with driving.

Michelle Malkin: Hey, I can tell the difference between what you say and what your typer says! About Mary Sues, I have a hard time fantasizing myself into SW, too, because even for a chance to meet Luke and Han, it wouldn't be fun to be at war.

The idea that Ewoks had met humans before colors the issue considerably, and could explain why they were determined to roast Luke, Han and Chewie alive.

I don't know much about directing. What makes Marquand a poor director?

Lisa Thomas: What's the address of the International Brotherhood of Jedi Knights? I wrote them once, but never got a reply, so assumed they were defunct.

The new price guide to SW collectibles is advertised by Intergalactic Trading Co., Inc., POB 1516, Longwood, FL 32750 (sorry, I don't have the price because I gave my catalog to a friend).

I was HORRIBLY disappointed with my JEDI tape, too. The color is absolutely dreadful. For example, all the Tatooine scenes are a uniform mustard yellow--the sand, Jabba, Chewie, 3PO, and the fortress are all the same color. The resolution is so blurry, it looks as if I recorded it on my own machine at 6-hour play. So, with all this, I failed to notice the squished figures and missing shots, although I see it, now that you mention it. *sob* Does anyone know whether videotapes are used to broadcast movies on pay TV? Maybe we can get good, clear, unsquished copies off TV? I don't understand it at all; my copy of TESB is excellent. I'll never order any tapes through the mail again (this one was from the OSWFC). ((Ed: That's really a shame. Have you written to see if you can return it? Perhaps you received a defective copy. Barring that,

try cleaning the heads on your VCR or having them cleaned professionally, and check the tracking carefully. I've had tapes that I gave up as a lost cause, but after taking these steps, they played much better.)

Sandi Jones: I think it's a super idea to discuss fanzines in A CLOSE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS! One of my big pleasures at MWC last year was finding people who wanted to talk zines, and made comments like, "I could never give up my zines"--I mean, these are people I can relate to!!

Oh, great, I hope the calendar does become an annual publication. I know it'll be much nicer than my Ewoks calendar (a pro pub).

Everyone: I'm wondering now whether Ben had anything to do with Vader's children when they were split up? Ben doesn't say he knew about the twins when they were born. He says he knew that if Vader had children, they'd be a threat to the Emperor. Maybe the children were taken to Yoda, and Yoda later told Ben about Luke, charging him to look after him. Maybe Ben didn't know about Leia until he said to Yoda, "He's our last hope." I can see Yoda keeping the secret as his wild card, maybe in case Ben himself fell to the Dark Side, or maybe because he was afraid Ben had a telepathic link with Vader and might accidentally give away the info, or maybe just as a promise to L&L's mother, that at least one of the twins wouldn't be dragged into that Jedi business unless it was absolutely necessary. Maybe Leia was Yoda's preferred choice for Jedi training, and plans went amiss somehow, so that he had to put up with Luke; maybe he was reluctant about Luke because he'd expected and hoped to be training Leia instead.

Well, enough of these typos, hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

FIAWOD

Sally Smith
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July 28, 1986

Can't write much this time. Life's been a zoo since last ish. MediaWest was my idea of ultimate fun (hi, gang!); unfortunately, it was followed by three weeks plus of the worst post-con crud I've ever had, an incredible deadline rush at work, my parents' visit, and I just finished another con yesterday. Only a month till Worldcon, then back to school the next day...aaaarrrrggghhh. FIAWOD (...death).

First of all, a hearty congrats and "hear hear" to Cheree for her "Ballad" filk. That completely sums it all up.

About the pictures:

- (1) How much did Sandi pay to get in twice?
- (2) Sandi and I were going to add the word "Luke" to the end of the phrase in our picture, but, uh...Ahem. Never mind! And, contrary to what you might think, I am NOT impersonating a waiter there; I'd just come from the "Remington Steele" party.

(3) Now all of SW fandom can see why Jeannie is known as "The Japanese Tourist". Lucky for those of us with antennae she couldn't wear the camera in the art show when we performed our secret mystical greeting ritual (you hadda be there...).

Maggie: Great letter, as always.

Carolyn Cooper: About "close the blast doors". The line disappeared at least by the 1982 re-release and the video tape, but I saw an old print (which also didn't say "Episode IV--A New Hope") at my college in April 1983. It was also about 2 minutes longer--had a few seconds more in several scenes. Personally, I liked the line, and taking it out seems to be just cutting a cute joke, for no apparent reason.

Tim: Ewoks as FASP's! Great term!

Marlene: Thanks for the info on the soccer team. Neat!

Barb: Ha! Very much appreciated your comment on Denver's non-existence! Does that mean I lived in a fantasy for 20 years? Guess that would explain my fannishness!

Matthew: I'm jealous of your "Room Service" adventures! But who was that guy in the picture with you? (hee hee)

Carolyn: Thanks for the postcard. When I threw the fit, it landed on the Academy's doorstep, of course (gee, 400+ miles, not bad)!

Michelle: (Geez, I can't conceive of living in one place for 12 years!) Your question about SW fans' loyalties in the "real world" was one I'd like to see answered. I'm a Rebel fan, and of course, on Our Side in the American Revolution, but as for the English Civil War, I'd have to come down on the Cavalier side. Probably because they dressed neater and I always thought Puritans were too boring (hey, I didn't say I had a good reason!).

Sandi: Hi! Recovered from the chat amongst you, me and Jenni yet? Yes, gentlefen, the three of us in one room! Michigan will never be the same (and I daresay a certain Jedi's ears were burning. As for the rest of him...um, sorry, Cheree, keep it PG, right?). About you being "over the hill"--remember when you're over the hill, you pick up speed! ((Ed: I wanna know what the three of them did with that Luke doll that Sandi was carrying around!! Did this one come with a detachable bionic hand????))

Cheree: Liked your ideas of what cars SW characters would drive. Where was that letter from DV postmarked? Nice mastheads. I bought THE SPACESHIP UNDER THE APPLE TREE in 1982; it's by Louis Slobodkin and from Collier Books. There are 2 sequels I've yet to find. ((Ed: Thanks for the info!!))

General (or admiral?) comments:

Lay off Ben Kenobi a little, huh? He's no saint, but no Ultimate Slimeball, either.

STIV looks good! I had to work while they were shooting here (@@#\$*&%), but just heard Doohan, Takei and Koenig talking about it this weekend.

OSWFC staff: My PERSONAL unfounded feeling is that everyone else was pushed and Maureen Garrett was allowed to jump.

What did everything think of LABYRINTH? I completely adored it! Marvelous!

When HOWARD THE DUCK comes out, look for me in the concert scene. IF I'm in camera range, and IF I don't end up on the cutting room floor, I'm sitting on my husband's shoulders, wearing glasses, an incredibly tacky purple Hawaiian shirt, and waving my fedora madly. (If you see a hat waving, it's probably me.) Lucas looked at me like I was outa my gourd. If I am, it's all his fault anyway.

Two final incredibly random notes:

- (1) The assistant director on the pilot for "The Rockford Files" was Howard G. Kazanjian.
- (2) I was baptized in St. Luke's Church; make something of that if you will.

You cannot escape your destiny!

Comics

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July 28, 1986

Greetings, Humanoids:

Hope everyone liked this year's MediaWest*Con. It was a bit low-key this year, with very few plays and a small costume competition, but I still enjoyed myself this year. But I'm a little worried about something I left behind--a bottle of Romulan Ale (more commonly referred to as Blenheim's "Old #3" Ex. Hot Ginger Ale). The stuff is made for people with cast iron throats. It's industrial strength ginger ale; the stuff eats holes in concrete. I had fun watching people choke on it up in the Con Suite. But I lost track of a bottle, probably in the dealer's room. I have this image of some unknowing fan or hotel employee opening it up and taking a big swallow. And I've also heard that the stuff becomes unstable with age, and has been known to explode...

Maggie Nowakowska: I really don't know how to put this, but I have no complaint about women on SF paperback covers. I like Rowena's art, though I do think that it is very static. But don't think that it is just skin, big tits, or "come-hither" posture that interests me. I remember a Michael Whelan cover for a trade paperback that I can't remember the title of. It had a man on the front cover and a woman on the back, both in realistic, bulky space suits, both stepping through a circular airlock. I can't express all the reasons the back cover was so captivating, but I thought it was very sexy. I also liked Michael's covers for FRIDAY and MORE CRYSTAL TEARS.

A "BNF Maggie Nowakowska" out making trouble for you? Sounds like something out of the Twilight Zone. Do-De-Do-Wha, Do-De-Do-Wha "For your perusal; a woman held accountable for actions she didn't commit, harassed for comments she never made. Tonight she will meet this doppleganger face to face. Not at Worldcon, not at MediaWest*Con, but in the Twilight Zone."

I've said my say about Lucasfilm, so I won't go into that again, but what you said about "bad drives out the good (meaning)" reminded me of a bit of comics history. Psychiatrist Frederic Wertham tried to destroy the comics industry during the 50's, and he wrote SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT to this effect. According to him, comics turned children into rapists, homosexuals/lesbians and juvenile delinquents. WONDER WOMAN was "a crime comic which we have found to be one of the most harmful." Regarding Batman and Robin: "They constantly rescue each other from violent attacks by an unending number of enemies.

The feeling is conveyed that we men must stick together because there are so many villainous creatures who have to be exterminated. Sometimes Batman ends up in bed injured and young Robin is shown sitting next to him. At home they lead an idyllic life. They are Bruce Wayne and 'Dick' Grayson. Bruce Wayne is described as a 'socialite' and the official relationship is that Dick is Bruce's ward. They live in sumptuous quarters, with beautiful flowers in large vases. Batman is sometimes shown in a dressing gown. It is like a wish dream of two homosexuals living together." Batman and Robin were no more or less homosexual than the boys who read them. Dr. Wertham kicked up a lot of dust back then, appearing at a Congressional hearing on the effects of comics on youth, and resulted in the formation of the Comics Code Authority. If we apply what you suggest, Maggie, then why doesn't everyone "know" that Batman and Robin are gay? Or that Kirk and Spock are gay? Or that Han and Luke are gay?

Carolyn Cooper: I understand that it is common for a movie to have three or four different prints with subtle differences circulating, especially if it is a replacement print or reissue. I understand that the British prints of the trilogy have a lot of the "missing" scenes we've heard tell about. I'd love to get a video copy of such a print.

Linda Kerry: Watch what you say about Howard the Duck. He's a friend of mine. It was one of the best comics ever published, the first and finest of the "serious" funny animal comics. I remember such antagonists as the Space-Turnip and ZUD! the Scrubbing Bubble that Walked Like a Man. I loved their STAR WARS take-off and it's follow-up entitled "What Do You Do, Where Do You Go, The Night After You've Saved The Universe?" I'm not sure how much I'm going to like the movie, though. I was hoping for a super-muppet, but it looks like a mid-get in a duck suit. "heavy sigh"

What was so regrettable about the first two SKYRIDER covers? The jumpsuit she wore was functional and it didn't look like it was sprayed on, nor was it particularly provocative. I bought that first SKYRIDER because it had what looked to me to be an attractive but normal (perhaps I should say believable) woman leaning casually against a spaceship. It was a subtle, intriguing cover, and I'm sorry that the third book doesn't have her on the cover, just a bunch of spaceships straight out of a third-rate video game blasting each other.

Mary Keever: Yes, I am a ROBOTECH fan. But it isn't shown around here (yet) and all I've seen are the first three episodes I rented on videotape and the ROBOTECH Art 1 book, I Want More!! NORTH AND SOUTH II was not quite as good as the first. I'm sad that they killed off Virgilia, Kirstie Alley's character. I'd love to bring Virgilia back as a ghost. I'm afraid that N&S could turn into a DALLAS set during Reconstruction South, and I don't think I'll like that very much. I loved YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES and was sad to hear that it flopped at the box office and that there probably will never be a sequel. Wouldn't it be neat if instead of San Francisco today, the STAR TREK crew went back in time to meet Young Sherlock Holmes in ST IV. Perhaps Elizabeth was reincarnated as Uhura or Saavik (or we could get really weird and make it McCoy or Sulu). I understand that there are a lot of Holmes fans who are Trek fans who like to mix them together.

"Saber of love"? Oh, my gosh!!! "blush"

Kerri Smithline: What do female Jedi wear under their robes? Perhaps they have little gold

"J's on their panties. Perhaps they used the Force for "no visable means of support" instead of a Playtex Cross-Your-Heart Bra (I'm sure they wouldn't use duct tape). I don't know what under things a female Jedi wears, but I'd like to find out.

I remember after reading an article about the symbolism of color in SW thinking where did Leia keep her color; surely there was more to her than pure white. I could see it clearly; a B.E.M. straight out of PLANET STORIES takes a swipe at Leia, coming just close enough to rip whatever white thing she is wearing partly away, and we see that she has a red silk bra. Another swipe and we see a purple garter belt and fishnet stockings. A third swipe and...uh, never mind.

Sally Smith: If you or anyone else would like to produce an original SW radio play, I'd be glad to stay up late one night during MediaWest (or Conzineience).

Matthew Whitney: HANNAH AND HER SISTERS went past me before I knew Carrie was in it. Didn't know about HOLLYWOOD VICE SQUAD. Perhaps I'll find it on video sometime. I would like to see more SW novels. Not at any set rate, like one every other month, like the ST novels have locked themselves into. I liked the Han Solo books, and though I haven't read the Lando Calrissian books yet, I understand that they are good also. I was hoping for a Leia series, or a Luke series that could fill in some gaps between EMPIRE and JEDI. But such prospects look bleak now. And I don't care about Han/Harrison's "I know" line.

How do you know that Han might not be the one who likes classical, or that Leia is into country (the real stuff, not that polyester that comes out of Nashville). I bet Leia could get into HEART, and I can imagine all three of them listening to Bob Seger or Billy Joel. How about Hank Williams for Vader? Cars? Han would drive a van, or something first cousin to Mad Max's car. Vader would drive a black & silver Rolls Royce. I suspect that Leia is just as hooked on speed as George Lucas is, so I don't think she'd mess with a chauffeur. How about a white Trans Am? As Jedi are not supposed to crave material things, a used VW Bug for Luke BUT with a few surprises under the hood.

If a computer/robot brain was complicated and sensitive enough to truly think, then it might could acquire a "soul", probably from the same place we did. I also feel that we sometimes leave little bits of ourselves behind us, and as a result places and things sometimes develop independent "personalities" as they accumulate these scraps. With a house or a car this wouldn't qualify as a soul, but a thinking computer might develop differently. Makes more sense than being struck by lightning.

Sandra Necchi: I know damn well that the news media is less than perfect. I have my own gripes that I do not care to list here (and it's a long list, too). I still say they are the best in the world, but then our phone company(s) is the world's best and do any of you want to send Ma Bell a thank you note? When you try to tell me that everybody else is soooo much better than our foolish American press, well, then a big fat raspberry to you, sister. The journalists you approve of walk different paths, and that's great, they probably should be given better attention. But this is my news media and I wouldn't take anyone else's.

Objectivity is a direction, not a destination. What I want from my news media is to learn what is happening, not somebody's opinion of what is happening. I shudder at the prospect of the networks

fragmenting into different ideologies. If everybody read a paper or watched a station that fitted their political slot, then everybody would hear what they wanted to hear, and nobody would learn anything.

You are right; I don't know that much about Colombia (I should probably check out NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC at the library). I've never needed to know that much about the country. Since they like so much of our American stuff, we must be doing something right. I still don't think ROMANCING THE STONE has anything to apologize for.

Michelle Malkin: When I hear fans talking about what George used to base SW on (westerns, Jap movies, Tolkein, etc.), I can't help but think of chefs tasting a soup and arguing over what spices must be in it.

To you and everyone else who called me down for my comments to Sandra, free speech works both ways, so why tell me to "lay off Necchi"? And, as you can tell, Sandra can take fine care of herself.

Lisa Thomas: Strangely, though I find myself gravitating more and more into STAR TREK and its fandom, all the zines I bought are STAR WARS zines. The ST/SW Price Guide is in a larger format this year. It doesn't really have more in it, but it's not pocket-size now.

Barbara Gardner: A mono-theist is a person who believes in one deity. Techno-mystic is harder to explain; see my last comments to Matthew Whitney.

Sandi Jones: If you don't like something I've said, then say what it is. What you said about my LoC in issue #10 was vague and nasty. I don't even know what pissed you off. So, say what is on your mind, or don't say anything.

Did anyone see ALIENS? I love this movie! "Big Momma" was awesome! It had great female characters; Ripley ("Rambo-lina" cracks will not be appreciated), Newt, and Vasques (a very sexy woman). I just wish Jones the Cat had more to do.

Fun at MediaWest

Sandi Jones
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August 1, 1986

It looks as if I'm going to be in the running for the under the wire award this month. I can't believe that the deadline is here and I haven't even begun to type this letter. I guess this won't be one of my marathon letters.

I would first like to say how much I enjoyed meeting so many of you at MediaWest. I had so much fun and can't wait to get back next year. There were just too many people that I didn't get to meet or spend a good length of time with.

I liked your filk, Cheree. Maybe next year we can all sing it as we are waiting in line to pick up our stuff from the art auction. The whole experience of being away from the mundane world for four days is so wonderful I would strongly urge anyone who is even halfway thinking of attending to make a concerted effort to get there. You can't

imagine how much fun it is to sit around for hours and talk about the saga or one's favorite character. I also very much enjoyed the dealer's room which is really the hub of activity. There is still a stack of zines in my studio that are waiting to be read, but there are also several stories that are calling at me to be written. Well, I know that this is not my normal LoC, but I just finished my last one to SCOUNDREL and figure that SE will be around for sometime more and that I will get my chance to ramble on once again in the pages of SE.

One last note. I haven't seen HOWARD THE DUCK yet, as it just opens today. One of the radio critics here in Chicago said that it was the make or break movie for Lucas. I would think that if this movie fails that Lucas will be forced (no pun intended) to make the first part of the trilogy. He will have to do something to save Skywalker Ranch and his enclave. I wish him the best, but think he should go back to what he does the best. And that, of course, is the STAR WARS movies. ((Ed: I haven't seen it yet either, but the opening day review in our local paper started off with: "How much dumber can American movies get? Dumber than HOWARD THE DUCK?" which didn't exactly make me want to rush right out and see it. Actually, it sort of confirmed my preconceived notion of how big a hit the movie would be.))

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July 22, 1986

Well, I couldn't believe my eyes when I scanned the index of letters in SE#12; so I turned to page 21 and there it was--a letter from the Man himself, and I even get an "honorable mention". Ah, I thought, recognition at last! Does this mean I get promoted to Grand Moff of the Empire Down Under??? On second thought, Darth, skip the promotion, I'll settle for a look at your lightsaber collection. We all know what you can do with your Jedi lightsaber. I wanna know what you can do with your, er...other one. (What was that you said, Mary Keever, about a "saber of love"?) Er, yes, well...ahem. This subject is now closed due to imminent invasion of obscenity!

What a great start this letter's got off to! Must be a full moon tonight. Anyway, I'll try to keep this as brief as possible.

Sheryl Herrly and Barbara Gardner: Hi, and welcome. Good to see more Imperial fan standing up and being counted. Looks like all us Darth lusters really are uniting. Keep it up, folks--after my "honorable mention" last ish, you too may be rewarded for your lechery, I mean, loyalty!

Sheryl: I second your nomination for the "Resurrect Piett" motion. I've read both SITH YEARBOOK and IMPERIAL ENTANGLEMENTS and highly recommend both. In the latter, the story "Hoth Admiral" by Barbara Tennison and Sylvia Stevens gives an excellent POV on Ozzel being a rebel sympathizer/double agent. (Pat Nussman, have you read it?)

Barbara Gardner: Another one! Another letch like me who cried over poor Darthie Diddums' sad demise! Omigod--together we probably went through so many boxes of tissues that Kleenex should offer us shares in their company. Why wouldn't Vader want to die? The answer is (as I see it) that it simply isn't in his nature. The survival instinct in Vader is very, very strong, as his "resurrection" from the molten pit proves. To survive that would require an indomitable will to live and an equally indomitable spirit. Vader wanting to die because his guilt was beyond his capacity to endure? I don't think so, because I see Vader as not only being a proud man who would regard this attitude as the weak way out, but as a man who faced up to his responsibilities and bore the consequences, no matter what. If he felt guilt, I think he'd rather let the Alliance put him on trial and abide by whatever judgment they passed. However unpleasant the prospect might be of having to face Leia, Han, the rest of the Alliance and the multitude of others who hated him, despite whatever regret/remorse/guilt he may have felt, I believe he'd prefer to "see it through" rather than to give his life as a "price...however small..." in exchange for the "debt" he owed them. If we're to believe what Yoda says, re Vader choosing the "quick and easy path", i.e., turning to the Dark, then one might believe that Vader was apt to look for an easy way out. Personally, I've never agreed with Yoda's implications that Vader's way was easy. The way I see it he made some damned hard choices! He paid for them --but he also stuck by them. For one viewpoint on how hard he found it to betray his Jedi allegiance, I highly recommend "Quisling" by my favorite Vader authors, Laymon & Goldstein, which also give very

Rock 'n' Roll

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July 21, 1986

Greetings from the rock'n'roll capital. With the four earthquakes we have had, things are really rock'n'rolling. Since I am only 48 miles from Palm Springs and less than 100 from Oceanside, we have really felt the quakes.

I have been reading through SE#12 and I am very impressed with the ideas, questions, and answers to all the aspects of the Saga. It seems that my family thinks that anyone who is "into" STAR WARS is a prime candidate for the funny farm or at least has a case of arrested development. I wish I could make them all sit down and read SE.

Just some random thoughts that passed through my head while sitting here. I have always wondered what happened to all the other offspring of the Jedi. They must have had children. Where are they? Were they hunted down and killed so there would be no new Jedi? In ANH, Tarkin tells Vader that the Jedi are extinct, have been for decades and that he is all that is left of their ways. If the children of the Jedi did survive, were they raised like Luke was, not knowing he had the Power of the Force in him?

highly moral reasons as to why Vader made the choices he did--betraying the Jedi, turning to the Dark, etc. To examine ANH for another "hard choice," recall that Vader chose to face Kenobi alone on the first Death Star. He didn't have to; he could have fronted up with an entire squad of troops, but the fact that he didn't is a testimony to Vader's courage. I'm not saying that you dispute his possessing courage in your argument--I feel you underestimate his courage. As I see it, wanting to die just doesn't go with this bravery coupled with the incredible strength of character that Vader possessed and his insurmountable will to survive. And Vader, firstly and foremost, is a survivor.

A "Jedi Exterminator" T-shirt...just the thing to wear to your next con...or Jedi council gathering! Stir, stir!

Lisa Thomas: Interesting thought re Luke's conscious awareness of the mindlink. Though I thought one had to be consciously aware before a mindlink could be initiated in the first place, e.g., it is not hereditary. Otherwise, why didn't Vader make use of the link earlier--why did he wait so long to tell Luke he was his father when he could have raised his consciousness earlier? Come to think of it, if a mindlink had always existed between Luke and Vader, did the same apply to Leia and Vader? If not, why not?

The Ewok Bar-B-Q will be held at the HQ of the Australian Imperial Fleet (my residence) if and when Melbourne gets some warm, fine weather! (They don't call it the Dark Side for nothin'!) Since the Aussie Empire relocated--ye gods of the Sith! What will the senile ol' goat, I mean, Our Glorious Master, say about me moving the Fleet!--I'm convinced I must be plagued with Ewoks, as within the last month the power points have all packed up, the washing machine sprung various leaks and the starter motor in my car died. So put on your Ewok Exterminator t-shirt and come on over! (If you can make the trip to Australia, I'll put on the bar-b-q! (Please no guest appearances by members of the Galactic Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Ewoks and kindred organizations.)

Michelle Malkin: Maybe the Jedi were too preoccupied with other problems in the galaxy to realize fully or become aware of Vader's attraction to the Dark. If their unawareness was due to lack of training in "picking up" the vibes of darkside influence, maybe the Jedi had to hastily recruit new members for some reason--have you any thoughts on either of these possibilities? Like you, I tend toward the opinion that Vader had been accepted as a full Jedi, so the others thought there was no danger of him turning--that he was immune to the Dark forever. (Look at how wrong you can be!)

Sally Syrjala: Interesting idea that the Emperor was once good, though personally, I can't think of him as anything but evil, from day one. We can only speculate as Lucas hasn't provided enough information for us to decide one way or the other. We only see him as he was in ROTJ, by which time any spark of good he might have once possessed had been long since exterminated.

Sandra Necchi: Agree that restoring the OR as it was is impossible. There must have been something corrupt about it, or it wouldn't have collapsed in the first place. Now if the Alliance figured out where both the OR and the Empire went wrong, and worked out a way to overcome these problems, there might rise out of the mistakes of its two predecessors. That would be an end worth work-

ing towards.

Ronda: Hi, did you get my postcard, scrawled in great haste? I sent it to your old address by mistake. Carol Hines-Stroede is another author whose work I appreciate to a high degree. Unfortunately, I haven't as yet read "And He Is Us."

Chris Callahan: Excellent point on why Vader didn't recognize Leia. As to the Emperor, I thought it was the effect (as in "cause and effect") that the lightning (or whatever the hell it is) has on prosthetics, rather than the Emperor's conscious and deliberate manipulation of such. But the idea of him using a deliberate manipulation as a weapon/control is a definite possibility--a horrendous one, in fact. If this is the case, that rates him as even lower than before, in my books.

Carolyn Golledge: Hi, mate! Thanks for the bountiful praise of my ravings. Also thanks for explaining my absence last ish. Re your comments on sentience, humans and droids, very good argument. Your astute observation about human minds being capable of erasure and reprogramming was a very good point and thought-provoking. I wouldn't have considered it in this light before. As to when self-awareness occurs, that would be extremely hard to determine. I still haven't read Heinlein's "The Cat Who Walks Through Walls"--I've only seen it in hardcover and nearly died when I saw the price (about \$21, Australian). Am awaiting its release in paperback form! ((Ed: I'd wait a bit longer and check the used paperback book stores--it's not worth spending too much money on! Heinlein was definitely having a bad day when he wrote this one!))

Pat Nussman: Re Ozzel being a rebel agent, as I mentioned to Sheryl, suggest you read "Hoth Admiral" by Tennison/Stevens in IMPERIAL ENTANGLEMENTS, which handles the subject very well. Re the droids issue, I think you expressed it very well when you said "'by remote' decision". As for whether this science fic becomes a fact, I guess it's a case of wait and see. I know in another letter I said that a thinking computer isn't a fantasy nowadays; however, whether such a computer can think independent of its creators is not known to me. I just want to take the opportunity to tell you that I really enjoyed your story, "Love's Mysteries". You portray both Leia and Han very well.

Matthew: How's your writing progressing? I really liked your plot for "Aftermath". As yet, that black armored package hasn't turned up in the mail...maybe it got lost in the post. (Actually, a case of kidnapping is more likely. Alright, now, own up: who's responsible? Ronda? Barbara? Carole??) Agree with you re Lucas and his movies. One of the most common criticisms of ROTJ was that Lucas' creative fatigue was showing.

Tim: I'm far more interested in your great and unique sense of humor than kinky sex, but I'll keep your As-Yet-Untitled-Abomination in mind--sounds like it'd make for fascinating reading! And, yes, Tim, I can quite believe you when you say you are not and never have been a lesbian. That would be a bit hard, your being a male!

Carole Regine: Say, you've got some good ideas! Love your interpretation of Vader's feelings in ESB and your theories on the precursors of the Jedi order. Agree 100% with you on Vader having his own standards of honor and decency. No character in the saga is so shrouded in mystery (and therefore likely to be misunderstood) as is Vader. On the double agent theme, watch ANH Death Star scenes, bearing this in mind. He first tells Tarkin that

it will take "some time" to get the information from Leia, because her resistance to the mind-probe is strong. Why does he need the bloody probe anyway? If Vader really meant business, why didn't he simply use the Force to tear the information out of her mind? Second, Tarkin orders Leia terminated. (In the novel, Vader actually tries to dissuade him! Using the reasoning that he'll be throwing away their only link to the real rebel base.) Then the Falcon turns up. Vader manages to hold up Leia's demise ("she may yet be of some use to us") --what a wonderful excuse to halt her execution! These are the only examples I can think of offhand; you might be able to think of more. And as to how Vader felt about Alderaan's destruction--is there anyone else besides me who harbors the faint suspicion that Vader himself might have been an Alderaanian?

I could go on but I'm running short of time. I tend to agree with your remarks about Vader's level of Jedi training. As for Yoda's "redeeming flaw", it just proves that even Jedi Masters aren't perfect! Unfortunately, I think many of us have fallen for the trap of viewing the Jedi as a "myth of perfection"--they were after all only human--or should that be "sentient"?

So, you like the idea of plugging folks' stories, eh? Well, hear this:

Carole has written a FANTASTIC story called "Grey Zone" which (if my memory serves me correctly) appears in A TREMOR IN THE FORCE (is that right, Cheree?). ((Ed: Nope--not in TIF. I believe it was in SOUTHERN KNIGHTS #2.)) Beautifully written, an unexpected, twisty ending and Vader fans will go CRAZY for it! (That wasn't meant to embarrass you, Carole.) Like your "Another Skywalker"--but which one? Chuckle.

Sandi Jones: G'day! Your calendar sounds great! Could you please clarify for me what you meant re "the whole idea of the family as expressed in SW...has not really been delved into"--excuse my density.

Marlene Karkoska: How did the Jedi get their rotten reputation among fan? I don't think all the blame can be left at Darth's doorstep, though even after the Alliance's victory, there'd be a fair few people who'd regard Jedi with suspicion, knowing that Vader had once been one. After all, Darth wasn't exactly good PR material for the Jedi Order. However, I feel that a lot of it evolved from fans' unrealistic expectations of what they perceived the Jedi to be, or what they thought Jedi should be. As you correctly stated, Ben was one of the few Jedi we did see. In the TV special, "From Star Wars to Jedi", Ben is described as a "gentle, perfect knight" who instructs Luke, which in my opinion, is what Lucas (initially at least) would have liked us to believe. Now a whole lot of people who hear that could well take it literally, especially if they see Ben as a model Jedi (or "typical" knight to use your expression), and would expect Ben and every other Jedi to be gentle and perfect! (Vader being the exception.) BUT, in ROTJ, they suddenly discover Ben isn't perfect, that (horror of horrors) he is human and fallible, just like you and me. In some cases, bitterness swiftly follows disillusionment, especially when one discovers that their idol has feet of clay, so to speak. From this, people start thinking that maybe the rest of the Jedi weren't so marvellous as it first appeared. Anyone who listened to Ben's CPOV with a critical ear might feel that if Ben bent the truth a little about Luke's father (no matter how honorable his inten-

tions may have been), why wouldn't he do the same with the Jedi? From this POV, whilst there's no hard evidence to prove that the Jedi were corrupt, there's none of the same to disprove that there wasn't at least some degree of corruption among them, and I don't mean Vader; we really only have Ben's word, which many may regard as an unreliable source. As to what caused the Jedi's downfall, I'd like to refer to 2 ideas, in reference to fanfic:

1. The Jedi were "corrupt" in the fact that they continued to support a corrupt and decaying government (the OR) and, if the OR had to go, then so did its defenders ("Quisling"--Laymon/Goldstein).

2. The Jedi became ineffectual in their control of the galaxy once the OR began to disintegrate. The time for a new, tighter control in the form of the Empire, had come but the Jedi refused to accept this and continued to support the Republic, although their attempts to preserve and defend it proved ineffective insofar as they couldn't stop the decay. Neither the OR nor the Jedi could adapt to the changing times and changing needs of the galaxy, so they had to go. (See Nikki White's SW stories.)

From either of these POV's, the Downfall of the Jedi was inevitable--Vader just hurried it along a little. If you can't swim with the tides of time, you end up being left behind on the shore or you drown, and that's a sad fact of life.

None of this, however, means that the Jedi were "inherently evil". I myself have never heard or read of a fan stating this opinion. One flaw I do see was, as Ben said, "they were in many ways...too good, too trusting..."--a weakness of which Jedi opponents could easily take advantage.

Maggie Nowakowska: About that "lie" of Kenobi's (a heinous offense!). As I just said, people expect too much of other people, especially if their expectations are high, and then the object of admiration fails to meet those standards. This is when we humans can be especially cruel when we feel someone we trusted so utterly has let us down--real or imaginary. As I recollect, Lucas conceived SW primarily as a children's series--the fairy tale like quality of the storyline, etc. Now children will view the CPOV scene as proof that Ben wasn't lying--he just told the truth in a "riddle"--just like the Sphinx or any other old wise sage of fairytales might. Children think, "Oh, Ben was right, he wasn't lying" and accept it, no problems, because they can't fully understand the concept of white lies and half-truths the way adults do. It is we fans who analyze, dissect arguments, so clinically. It's the adult mind at work picking nits, regarding the scene with cynical suspicion and distrust. I'm not saying this is a bad thing--you can't blindly accept everything on just face value; but this is the fundamental difference between kids and adult fans. Also, kids are far more forgiving and tolerant of others' mistakes than your average adult.

I really enjoyed your story "Last Sanctuary" and I felt so sorry for Ben. Everyone blamed him entirely for the mess with Vader and everyone expected him to be perfect--your story illustrated this point well.

Carol Peters: Your warning against drunk driving was worthy of print indeed. My guess is that you've been through absolute hell. I hope you're getting yourself and your life back together again by the time this sees print. My sister was killed last year by a motorist--he wasn't drunk, simply in a hurry. Some people can be mongrels enough without drink, which only makes them worse. This senseless

carnage on the road makes me sick. So, let's all be careful on the roads!

Cheree: Loved your MediaWest filk. The photos are interesting as always. And I was particularly taken with the drawing of Darthie as a babe! (p. 7) Now I'll give your fingers and eyes a rest and conclude this brief little letter. So much for my "try"! (Yes, I know, "Do or do not, there is... etc." Oh, shuddup, Master Yoda!)

Til next letter may the Qark Side be with you!

Under-the-Wire

Michelle Malkin
1410 Tyson Ave., 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19111

August 5, 1986

This is the latest I've ever written to SE, so if it's too late for the next issue, just chuck this letter and I'll write more timely for the next one.

Nice batch of letters. I missed seeing an article or two, but my main interest has always been the letters, so I can live without them.

Maggie Nowakowska: Good points on BNFs. I remember one incident in which a friend of mine tried to introduce herself to one so-called BNF. This person had never met my friend, but had heard of her in fannish circles and decided before ever meeting her to have nothing ever to do with her. So, when my friend said hello, this "BNF" cut her dead--totally ignored her. Up until then, I had liked this person for her humor and the hard humor of the stories she had written in zines. After this rude, callous and totally uncalled for behavior, she was mud in my book.

Lin Ward: I wonder if more women started reading science fiction because it turned more to concepts and characterizations or if sf turned to concepts and characterizations because more women were writing it. Since the late sixties/early seventies, the number of female sf writers has increased incredibly. The quality of the writing has also improved dramatically. Many male writers (the ones who didn't have the sense to realize it to begin with) are coming to the conclusion that the occasional bit of character development and even (heaven forfend!) emotion will not only not ruin a story but may make it more realistic.

Darth Vader, Dark Lord: Okay, so even a Sith Lord can be a smartass. You didn't specifically say that you wouldn't say whether or not you killed Captain Needa. So, did you or didn't you?

Marlene Karkoska: My comment about the new "Jedi" possibly not being patterned on the old Jedi was not meant to be a slur against them. Any new group learns from the faults and strengths of those who went before them. Using this knowledge and adding new knowledge of their own could possibly lead to a stronger, longer-lasting group. Then again, maybe not. The fact is that the Jedi were destroyed. Whatever the reason, whether it was corruption within or plain old carelessness or what-have-you, some of the fault has to be theirs.

Brayton & LaVasseur: Speaking of Julian Glover--he is also in an episode of BLAKE'S 7 entitled "Breakdown." He has a nice chunky part as a doctor with a strange code of ethics.

Chris Callahan: Good media sf comes along so rarely that it hurts. Good multi-story (episode) sf even more rarely. I was in TREK fandom for many years before it started to wear thin for me. SW came along just in time with its huge universe and many characters to watch developing. Fan stories keep both ST and SW alive for me now and will continue to do so. I can happily say the same with my new sf infatuation--BLAKE'S 7, if you haven't already guessed. 52 episodes, a whole Galaxy to work in (plus the "unloveable" Andromedans from the galaxy next door) and several regular characters to watch develop and work on in stories (there are still two episodes I haven't seen. Sigh.). All this and British accents, too!

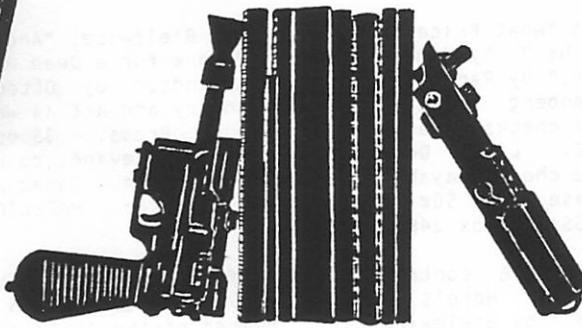
Lisa Thomas: Arnold Stang was a comedian who appeared on the old (very old) Milton Berle show back in the 50's. He was (probably still is) a skinny little man with a very nasal voice. He played a character named Max who had a girlfriend named Maxine. When things would get to be too much for them, one of them would shrug and say, "It's bigger den both of us." I guess they sort of exemplified all the so-called "little people" of the world who have no control over life in general. I'm 39, by the way.

Barbara Gardner: Hmmmm, Darth Vader for President? Can't be much worse than what we currently are stuck with.

Sandi Jones: Good questions about the future "Jedi". I look forward to reading your stories as they appear. One thing I didn't mean, though, was that people would be forced (no pun intended) to use their esper talents. Any training that would be done with children would be simply to show them how to use their talents, bring out those that may only be half-revealed or not known at all for the possible purpose of saving the child's sanity if such talents mess up their minds. What the adult does with this training should be up to her/him.

Very short LoC this time, Cheree, since I have grave doubts about making it into the zine anyway. I apologize for being so late, and look forward to the next issue. ((Ed: Under-the-wire by a whisker!))





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JUST DESERTS #1. All RAT PATROL zine. Contents include stories by Bartlett, Bryson, Carr, Farnsworth, Knights and more. Art by Dani, Virgil, and Otten. Contains a SW crossover and an Indiana Jones crossover as well. \$10.00 fc. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will

not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

KESSEL RUN #4--SW fiction, articles, poetry and artwork by Agel, Benedict, Brin, Edwards, Laymon & Goldstein, Hennig, Matthews, Hines-Stroede, Molitor, Nussman, Sibley, Taero, Adolf, Zeek, Lorenstein, Varesano, Drake, Dunster, Martynn, Cargill, Faraci, Low, Lybarger, Ludwig, Stasulis, Rosenthal, Wells, etc. Includes "Sword of Darkness, Sword of Light" by Patricia D'Orazio--the Emperor still lives and chaos reigns; "Old Friends and Acquaintences" by Carol Hines-Stroede--Lando and Vader must work together to save a space station; "Novitiate" by Jeanine Hennig--Luke returns to Tatooine to train and do some heavy soul-searching; and "Life-Line" by A. E. Zeek--Han and Leia must rescue Luke from the Imps with the help of Han's old friend Alain, also known as Dracula. \$18.00. Make check payable to Michelle Malkin, 1410 Tyson Ave., 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19111. KR#3 still available for \$15.00 or SASE for information.

LATE NIGHT #1--Now available, limited run! Fiction on S&H (by Black), SW (Durbin), BG (Carr), Voyage (Farnsworth), M*A*S*H (deGabriele), SW (Carr & Pontiac), Willard (Bauman), ST (Maricevic) and S&S (Black). Art by Djong, Miller, Franklin, Newsome, Lane, deGabriele, Walsh, Larimer, Williard and Riddle. \$10/fc. \$9/3rd (sorry, no UPS here) from Judy Maricevic, 713 Overhill Dr., N. Versailles, PA 15137.

MELANGE V--Contains stories and poems from TEMPLE OF DOOM, GALLIPOLI, AIRWOLF, JEDI, BLADE RUNNER, A NEW HOPE, STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO, CHAMPIONS and SIMON & SIMON. Authors/Poet: Patricia D'Orazio, Kelly Hill, Pat Hailey, Martie Benedict, Jean L. Stevenson, Jacqueline Taero, Pat Nussman, Barbara Brayton, Teresa Sarick, Jean Thrower and Diane Farnsworth. Art by Barbara Fister-Liltz and Frank Liltz. \$6.50 ppd. Checks payable to: Barbara Fister-Liltz, Pandora Publications, 3601A Cermak Rd., No. Riverside, IL 60546.

MELANGE VI. Mixed media anthology due out Fall '85, featuring SIMON & SIMON, AIRWOLF, MAN FROM UNCLE, VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, WITNESS, REMINGTON STEELE, STAR TREK, TEMPLE OF DOOM, STAR WARS. Authors and Poets: Christine Jeffords, Pat Hailey, Jean Graham, Diane Farnsworth, Linda Boster, Kelly Hill, S. T. Peach, Jean L. Stevenson, and Jacqueline Taero. Art by Barbara Fister-Liltz. \$6.50 ppd. Checks payable to: Barbara Fister-Liltz, 8601A West Cermak Road, North Riverside, IL 60546.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH. Still some copies of the first issue available. Stories, art, poetry, and puzzles by Hennig, Mark and Melea Fisher, Markle, Bales, Wortham, Vandiver, Nordstrom, Cargill, Cooper, and Dani. \$10.00 (includes postage). DAGOBAH is 100 pp. reduced. ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH AGAIN (second issue). Now available, featuring more stories, art, poetry, filks and cartoons by your favorites such as Hennig, Wortham, Erwin, Randolph, Carr, St. Cyr, Jones, Henderson, Wells, Vandiver, Nordstrom, Malkin, Grant, Markle, Bales, Dani, the Fishers, and cover by Karen River. Send \$12.50 (includes postage) to Melea Fisher, 4504 W. Pioneer #82, Irving, TX 76061, or send SASE for flier with story listings. DAGOBAH AGAIN is 200 pp. reduced.

ON THE MARK--the newsletter for Mark Hamill fans! Each issue is from 6 to 8 pages and includes articles on the current career of Mark Hamill, plus exclusive photographs, artwork, JEDI and Star Wars news, cartoons, a letter column and special articles on Mark's past career accomplishments. Published quarterly with the approval of Mark Hamill. A one year subscription gets you 4 issues and announcements of special events. \$4.00/yr U.S., \$8.00 overseas. Make checks payable to Lisa Cowan, PO Box 5276, Orange, CA 92667.

ROGUE'S GALLERY. Ford fans--put more scoundrels in your life! RG is a news digest devoted to Harrison Ford's movies and activities, past, present and future. Printed quarterly. In its fourth year of printing. \$15.00 (\$25.00 foreign airmail) to Joann Emerson, Route #1, Cushing, WI 54006.

SHADOW DANCE--Media zine devoted to those lovable scoundrels--on both sides of the law! #1 includes "Identity Crisis" (SW), "Three's Company" (Harrison Ford story), "The Fan Who Never Returned" (SW/Fantasy Island), and more! Limited supply left. \$7.50 US, \$10.00 overseas. #2 includes "Delusions of Grandeur" (BG), "A Time of Life and Death" (THJ), "Aspasia" (SW), "Perchance to Dream" (SW), "Delirium's Dream" (THJ), "Just One of Those Days" (SW). Special Jon-Eric Hexum cover and memorial prose. More!! Approx 100 pages. Now available. \$12.00 US, \$15.00 overseas. Please make checks payable to K. L. Smithline. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001 - 14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

SIGNS OF WISDOM: A "Desert Seed" novel by Carol Mularski. Kaili Lars learns that would-be Jedi must pass a Test, which is different for each person. Copies available now (economics of printing mean larger number than immediately needed). \$9.00 1st class, checks payable to Chris Callahan. Order from The Unknown Press c/o Callahan, 6101 Seminole St., Berwyn Heights, MD 20740. Checks payable to Chris Callahan.

SITH YEARBOOK -- An Imperial-oriented zine in the tradition of Imperial Entanglements. Writers include Bonder, Habel, Hines-Stroede, Necchi, Tennison/Stevens, Wilson. Art by Bonder, Contessa, Habel, Hummel, Rosenthal, Stasulis, Van Riper, Griffith, Bernie! and bes shahar. Price \$7.00 plus \$2.40 for 1st class postage. Susan W. Henderson, 40 Westminster Ave., Portland ME 04103. Some same-sex relationships (yes, Piett and Serzho are back, better than ever).

SOUTHERN KNIGHTS #2. Contents include: "Frisento" by L. A. Carr, "Above All Shadows" by Carolyn Golledge, "Deathwalker" by Sheila Paulson and much more by Brin, Shumsky, Taero, Vandiver, Erwin, Bryant, Regine, Dani, Virgil and others. \$15.00 fc. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS #1 is now available in a xerox reprint. Contains several S&S stories, MIAMI VICE, STAR WARS and many other fandoms. Contributors include: Carr, Dani, Golledge, Jeffords, McGhlin, Rosenthal and Virgil. Send a SASE for current prices. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS #2 will be ready in August of 1986. Fandoms represented include: S&S, MV, AW, SW, THE MASTER, HSB, AT, B7, SWAT, RP, UNCLE and more. All out usual contributors plus some new ones! \$16.00 FC. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. First issue sold out in a month!

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 2.5. A special adult all-BLAKE'S 7 zine, available in a reprint. Approximately 70 pages, reduced. \$5.00 fc. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

THE COMPLETE ZEEK, Vol I--the first of a two-volume set contains stories in the SW, ST and IJ universes, including "Honor Binds Me", "Spock's Elf", "Perchance to Dream", "Queen's Gambit", "Skyfall" and more. About 200 pages. \$9.75 (by hand), \$11.50 (bk ins), \$12.50 (FC). Pat Nussman, 2J Breezy Tree Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

THE PRINCESS TAPES, a SW/Princess Leia-oriented fanzine is now available from Krystarion Press for the cover price of \$7.00. Contains 5 stories including 3 pre-SW tales from Leia's background, 3 articles, two poems, two art portfolios, our infamous "unclassifieds", and much more. TPT also features a color cover by Connie Faddis. Send SASE or SASP for mailing information. Sorry about that, but it varies too much for one price to cover all. Send to Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE PRINCESS TAPES: THE PROLOGUE is still available for \$1.50 cover price, \$2.50 fc mail. If ordered together with TPT, send SASE or SASP for mailing costs. Send to Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #1: Still some copies available; the zine that started it all! Fiction, articles and poetry by Ripley, Peed, Thomas, Martz, Rogan, Saye and others. Art by River, Peed, Fregnini, Carlton and others. Cover by River. \$12.50, first class mail, \$10.00 in person. THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #2: Winner of the 1986 Fan Q Award for Best SW Zine!! The saga continues! Fiction by Golledge, Ripley, Cope, Martz and others; art by Lybarger, River, Charvat, Peed, Dani, Bryant, and others. Something to Offend Absolutely Everyone! Perfect bound. \$13.50 in person; \$14.50 book rate; \$17.00 first class mail. THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #3: Debuting at MediaWestCon 6! Onward and upward with the arts! Fiction, articles and poetry by Randolph, Ripley, Wilson, Thomas, Martz, Henderson, Saye, Golledge, Erwin, Hennig, Cope and a cast of thousands. Art by River, Markle, Fisher, Carey, Lybarger, Stasulis, Lane, Easley, Afton and others. A big, fat, juicy issue: SW fanzines are not dead! SASE for final price--or see us at the cons! All 3 issues available from Double D Press, Dr. Mary Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

UNIVERSAL TRANSLATOR is a quarterly newsletter listing available, proposed, and international zines for all media fandoms in a convenient, "see-at-a-glance" format. Also includes reviews, con info, and other items of interest to fandom. \$2.75 per iss. (\$3.75 overseas); subscriptions are available for up to two issues--\$5.50 (\$7.50 overseas). Make

checks payable to Susan J. Bridges, 200 West 79th St. 14H, New York, NY 10024. Editors, ads are free and we are looking for yours!

WELL OF THE SOULS #4: "An Eye for an Eye" by Tammy Monfette. Indy and Belloq are drawn to a mysterious jungle city for the legendary jewels it is said to hold. What they find there is more than they bargained for...or could conceive of in their wildest dreams--or worst nightmares. "The Exhibit" by Carol-Lynn Sappe'. A handsome archaeologist and his beautiful assistant try to retrieve the Ark of the Covenant from its hiding place. If you think you've heard it before, you're wrong--because this archaeologist's name is Marcus B. Jones and this is today! "As Time Goes By", by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. A few small incidents from the life and times of Dr. and Mrs. Jones, from 1939 to 1983. Sometimes funny, sometimes serious, but always containing more in-jokes than you can imagine! (And we can imagine QUITE a bit!) \$6.00 FC. #1 (Jan. 1982) is \$6.00 FC; #2 (June 1982) is \$6.00 FC; #3 (Jan. 1983) is \$7.00 FC, or save and get all three for \$18.00 (these are xerox copies). Send your checks, money orders, or spare archaeology professors to: WELL OF THE SOULS, c/o Sally Smith, 38725 Lexington St. #247, Fremont, CA 94536.

WELL OF THE SOULS #5. "Tinseltown" by Roberta Rogow. Indy, Willie and Shorty return to America and fall in with evil companions--like William Randolph Hearst, Katharine Hepburn, F. Scott Fitzgerald, David Niven, Louis B. Mayer...not to mention the Chinese thugs who are out to get Indy and Shorty in revenge for Lao Che's son's death...and a natural disaster or two. You get the idea! "Anything Goes" by Jeannie Webster. In 1937, Indy and Marion decide to visit a nightclub. When Indy recognizes the blonde singer, things get...uh...interesting between Willie and Marion! "Raiders of the Lost Fridge" by Ros Wheaton. A satirical script. The Nazis have stolen Indy's refrigerator, and he's the only one who can save the world from being flooded with frozen sauerkraut--but he should've read the script first, or at least avoided Elstree! "As Time Goes By, The Sequel" by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. It's the 1980's, and Indiana Jones' memoirs have hit the best-seller list. A couple of guys named George and Steven think the book would make a great movie--but they'll have to deal with Indy's skepticism, Marion's business acumen, and the grandkids' requests to get the rights. "What I Did on My Summer Vacation, Part 2" by Sally Smith and the WOTS crew. Just what was going on with all those weirdos at the L.A. Worldcon? AND MORE! Final price is \$7.00 first class. Sally Smith, 38725 Lexington St. #247, Fremont, CA 94536.

COMING TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

ALL THAT JAZZ--the first and possibly only all A-Team zine around! #1--Fiction so far by Garrett, Smithline, Habel. Art so far by Larimer. Submissions now being sought and accepted. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #4. Now open for submissions.

Contributors already include Carolyn Golledge, Patricia D'Orazio, Jacqueline Taero, Ruth Radecki, Nola Caulfield, Dina Heredia, and other favorites, both old and new! Due out in Summer, 1987. If interested in contributing, SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

CHOICE PARTS--a new Harrison Ford zine, just a bit more on the adult side. Featuring "Seasons Change" by Linda Boster. John Book and Rachel Lapp had accepted the fact that they could never see each other again; it did little to abate the way they still felt. "Chance Encounter" by Kate Birkel. Tommy Lillard was minding his own business when the strangest looking thing he'd ever seen fell out of the sky--with a beautiful, sharp-tongued princess as its passenger. Other material includes fiction by Carolyn Golledge, Ann Wortham, Jeannie Webster, Cypher, Cheree Cargill, and Elizabeth Wilson, plus poetry by Martie Benedict, Pat Nussman, Jacqueline Taero, Patricia D'Orazio, Sarah Macht-DeWitt and others. Art by Wanda Lybarger, Martynn, Dianne Smith, Dani, Jim Markle and Barbara Frances-Simon, plus more. Color cover by Dianne Smith! Due out Winter, 1986. \$5.00 and a SASE to reserve. Make checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

FROM THE HART. Come march with the Mulligan Guards in this tribute to Mark Hamill's portrayal of Tony Hart in the charming Broadway musical, HARRIGAN 'N HART. Deadline for submissions: Dec. 31st. For more information, SASE to DMC Press c/o Kelly Francois, 235 Union Avenue B1024, Campbell, CA 95008.

JUST A COUPLA JOKERS. The first all SIMON & SIMON zine (that we know of!) is looking for submissions of fiction, poetry, filks and art, as well as interested parties in such a zine. Aiming for a Christmas '85 printing, we already have work by Jeffords, Carr and Hall with promises for more. Submissions and SASE's (no money at this time, please!) to Jumeau Press, 2720 Exuma Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406.

JUST DESERTS #2 is planned for late 1986. It already contains two long stories by Linda Knights and more. There is room for more fiction and artists are always appreciated. \$5.00 & legal-size SASE to reserve. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

KHAEL--a Han Solo-oriented SW zine, now soliciting stories. Must have Han as a main character. Stories so far include "Unicorn Chased" by Jean L. Stevenson, a sequel to "Unicorn's Maiden"; "Wild Card" by Patricia D'Orazio, a Sybelle and Han Solo story; "Fair Trade" by Kate Birkel, a post-ANH story; a Han Solo and Anakin Skywalker story by Lynn Farr; and a portfolio of incidental art by Wanda Lybarger. SASE to Khaelian Press, c/o Kate Birkel, 2326 S. 12th St., Omaha, NE 68108.

LAST STAND AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD is a BLAKE'S 7 5th season in five parts. All five parts are complete and contained within this volume. Written by Ann Wortham & Leah Rosenthal with art by Dani, Rosenthal and Willis. Send a legal-size SASE to reserve a copy. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

LATE NIGHT #2--due June, 1986, includes SSF, Ironside, GAH, SW, Steele, ST. We still need humorist and artists. Help!! SASE Judy Maricevic, 713 Overhill Dr., N. Versailles, PA 15137.

LATE NIGHT #3--accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, humor, art, filk, etc. beginning February 1st. Beginners welcome (we're tough but we're fair)! All submissions and questions, please SASE Judy Maricevic, 713 Overhill Dr., N. Versailles, PA 15137.

LEGACY FOR A HIGHWAYMAN--a pre-ANH novel of love and loss by Juanita Salicrup. SASE to Khaelian Press, c/o Kate Birkel, 2326 S. 12th St., Omaha, NE 68108.

LEGENDS OF LIGHT. As of February 1985 there will not be a third issue of LoL such as issues one and two. The major deterrents are increased job demands and limited financial resources for the editors. However, we are planning to publish the sequel to Susan Voll's "Forerunner" (LoL #1) in Spring 1986. Included with this mini-issue will be additional contributions, including short stories, poems, filks, artwork, LoL's for issue #2 and filler material. A firm limit will be imposed on the number of pages in this third issue. Contributions will not be accepted until September 1, 1985. Please watch for future notices in the ad sections of zine for details. Thanks to everyone for their support of LoL! Rebecca Walker & Susan Voll, editors.

NOT JUST LUKE. A zine still in its infancy, just waiting to grow up. Now reviewing submissions of all kinds. NJL is a playground for Mark Hamill fans with pen in hand. Mark has portrayed many a character. NOT JUST LUKE! Send submissions or info SASE to: DMC Press c/o SASE Kelly Francois, 235 Union Avenue B1024, Campbell, CA 95008.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH #3. Now accepting submissions for fiction, poetry, art, filks, and cartoon. Deadline for submissions is October 31. For submission guidelines, send SASE to Melea Fisher, 4504 W. Pioneer #82, Irving, TX 75061. Help us make this issue the best yet.

ONCE UPON A BLUE MOON--a proposed "no-frills" MOON LIGHTING letterzine is urgently soliciting letters of comment! Are there any fans out there? For final pub date and price, please SASE. Pat Nussman, 2J Breezy Tree Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

ONE FROM THE HEART--A proposed one-shot zine dealing with all the characters Mark Hamill has portrayed on television, film and stage. We are currently seeking all types of submissions (open letters, filks, short stories, long stories, artwork). Ann Harvers and Lee Shenker, Co-Editors. Naughty Girls Press, 411-84th St., Brooklyn, NY 11209.

1.21 GIGAWATTS is hoping to become a reality. This is a feeler to find out if anyone is interested in reading, writing for, drawing for, etc., a zine dedicated to the 1985 summer smith hit BACK TO THE FUTURE. I would love to see alternate endings and BTTF II proposals. Send a "Hey!--Let's do it!" SASE to: DMC Press c/o Kelly Francois, 235 Union Avenue B1024, Campbell, CA 95008.

PERFECT FUSION, VOL. I, has been delayed but is still in the works! The first volume of this adult

zine published by a former editor of Organia will contain 75% SW's and 25% SF material. Contributors include: Abelove, Alman, Blaes, Cargill, Denton, Drake, Faraci, Fetter, Hedge, Hennig, Kaplowitz, Knights, Lorenstein, Mathai, Malkin, Osman, Stasulis, Swan, Tennison and many others. Age statement required. Beverly Lorenstein, 432 Fanshawe St. #9, Philadelphia, PA 19111.

POWER OF SPEECH--a new ST/media letterzine with absolutely no censorship and devoted to civilized controversy is ready to go to print. Price not yet finalized. First issue includes articles and discussions on the Vulcan *katra*, the Vulcan wars, the Jedi, *Blake's 7*, THE PROFESSIONALS, analyses of the ST films vs. the series, and lots more. Guaranteed to exercise the brain. Send SASE and \$1 to Sandra H. Necchi, 4835 Cedar Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143.

PRISMS--a new zine that aspires to be the "Encyclopedia of SW fan universes", is forthcoming soon. Keep your eyes on this space next time! Galactic Winds Press, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

QUARTERSTAFF, a proposed quarterly letterzine for fans of HTV/Goldcrest's ROBIN HOOD, is currently seeking LoCs, filler art and articles. SASE for details and for final price notification. Mary A. Schmidt, N8011 WI Hwy 33, Beaver Dam, WI 53916.

SHADOW DANCE II. Twice the size of #1. Fiction by: Smithline, Hunter, Wortham, Wardwell, Garret. Poetry by Mary Robertson, including special memorial poem to Jon-Eric Hexum. Games by Vandiver and Erwin. Art by: Brinkmeir, Zan, Dunster. Jon-Eric Hexum cover by J. R. Dunster. Approximately 100 pages. Reserve your copy now! Only 20 more reservations needed to go to press. Final price: \$12.00 USA, \$15.00 overseas. Please make your check payable to K. L. Smithline. Black Unicorn Press, c/o K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219. #1 still available for \$7.50.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 3 will make its appearance early in 1987. Universes include B7, IJ, AT, AW, S&S, MV and others. \$5.00 and legal-size SASE to reserve a copy. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. SOUTHERN LIGHTS is full for several issues and submissions are not being taken at this time.

SOUTHERN SEVEN (all *BLAKE'S 7*) is planned to debut in late 1986. Stories include: "Love and Necessary Discipline" by Susan Matthews, "For a Few Credits More" by Sheila Paulson, "Picture If You Will" by Kathy Hintze, "Intergalactic Velvet" by Rosenthal and Wortham, "Season of Lies" by Wortham and Rosenthal, and much, much more. Art by Burnside, Rosenthal, Willis and others. Send a legal-size SASE (no money) to reserve a copy. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

TARDIS TIMES: Dr. Who zine. This zine is 90% complete. The only thing lacking is the money to print. The stories concentrate mainly on the Baker Dr. (Tom), but we are still accepting contributions, preferably shorts, poems, art work, articles, featuring all 6 Drs. \$3 deposit for reservation. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE ECLECTIC *--a new multi-media zine is now open for submissions. All fandoms welcome. There are no prejudices as far as subject, but there are minimal literary standards that will be upheld. THE ECLECTIC * is intended eventually to be a quarterly. \$3 for reservation. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE ENEMIES by Lynne Farr. Did you ever wonder what Darth Vader was doing while Luke was studying on Dagobah, Leia was organizing the rebellion and Han was cooling his heels in carbon freeze? Inquiring minds want to know! SASE for info to Jackie Edwards, 2206 So. 42nd, Omaha, NE 68106.

THE LEADING EDGE is a SF and F zine that features new and old writers and artists. Material for TLE #6 and 7 include stories, poetry, art and articles. If you are interested in submitting or subscribing to TLE, please contact: The Leading Edge, c/o Marion K. Smith, JKHB Rm. #3163, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.

THE MILLENNIUM FALCON CASEBOOK is a thematic one-shot seeking contribs; SASE for guidelines. BRIGHTSTAR IN GLORY, the only mainline Brightstar Universe novel will take the Lucas/Brightstar cast through their analog of ROTJ; written by Christine Jeffords, planned for May '85 debut, and now accepting SASEs. Phantom Press, Christine Jeffords, 630 Bloomfield Ave., Verona, NJ 07044.

THE MONOCLE is a fanzine dedicated to the fantasy TV series WIZARDS AND WARRIORS. Now accepting checks for deposit of \$5.00 plus a SASE which will reserve your copy. Checks should be addressed to Mel L. Gifford. They will not be cashed until I go to press which should be about Jan. 85. Send money to Camarand Press, c/o Mel L. Gifford, 355 East 400 North, Provo, UT 84601.

THE PRINCESS TAPES #2: Now in production, TP2 is a continuation of the SW saga as seen from the Princess' point of view. It consists of a collection of shorts, poems, stories, articles, and especially art work, and is based on the original Princess Tapes poem and song cycle, excerpt of which are now on view in the Pan-Galactic Museum, 4th Quadrant, Hub Sector. Contributions welcome. \$3 for deposit. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

THE WOLFHAWKE TAPESTRIES. Based on the legendary events portrayed in the medieval fantasy LADYHAWKE. Nearly ready with our premiere issue. SASE for info. Wolfhawke Press, Ltd., c/o Sandy Williams, 3911 N. Hall St., Apt. A, Dallas, TX 75219.

THOUSANDWORLDS COLLECTED. In one place (but more than one volume), at last! All of Maggie Nowakowska's 'ThousandWorlds' stories, including several new ones(!), plus new introductions and notes by the author. Due May '86. Make checks payable to Mazeltough Press. \$5.00 + SASE. Linda Deneroff and Cynthia Levine, co-eds. Make checks payable to Mazeltough Press. Canadians, please add. 50¢ postage. Write to: MAZELTOUGH PRESS; PO Box 248; Wayzata, MN 55391.

TIME TAVERN. Tentative title. The TIME TAVERN is a place of enlightened and exotic entertainment established between time and space where anybody can show up and usually does. The ultimate in

cross-universe zines. Now open for submissions. Send SASE for guidelines. Krystarion Press, c/o J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

VERTIGO (formerly THING) is in need of contributions for its first issue (a really unique situation, huh?). We accept just about all media, and prefer stories with an off-the-wall slant. Real psychotic stuff. Cross-universe stories, What-If stories, parodies, humor, Twilight Zone-type twist endings, unusual angles, that sort of thing. We also need articles, reviews of just about any sort, and artists. We will consider stories of just about any length but we're not inclined to do continued pieces. VERTIGO will be about 200 pages, unreduced, with an estimated price of \$5.00 plus postage, or less as we are aiming at the cheapest zine in town. Send contributions to: VERTIGO, Susan Kimzey, PO Box 875, Greer, SC 29651. Remember, if Weird has a name, it must be VERTIGO!

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #4!! Back by popular complaint: The zine with something to offend absolutely everyone marches on! Scheduled for debut at MediaWest Con 7 in May, 1987. Deadline for submissions: January 1, 1987. For submission guidelines and general encouragement, SASE Samia Martz, 78 Council Trail, Warrensburg, MO 64093. We would like to showcase "post-ROTJ" fiction in this issue--but we are always receptive to anything good and outrageous, so write us!

OTHER WORLDS

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM KRYSTARION PRESS: Help an editor complete her mailing lists. If anyone plans on purchasing THE PRINCESS TAPES and already possessed a copy of TPT: THE PROLOGUE, when sending in the order indicate which number of THE PROLOGUE you have. This will be greatly appreciated with mucho thanks by the editor of both the above zines. Also that will allow said editor to match the numbers of both zines for each fan who orders them. Thanks. J. A. Low, 2500 Fontaine Rd., Greensboro, NC 27407.

ARTISTS needed for ALL THAT JAZZ, the all-A-Team zine. Please send samples of work to K. L. Smithline, Black Unicorn Press, 5001-14th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

BUTTONS MADE TO ORDER. Subjects include Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill, Star Wars, A-Team, "V". Photo, general and novelty buttons as well. Legal size SASE for catalog. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

CELEBRITY PHOTOS. My candid photos of over 10,000 stars have appeared in national and international publications. SASE for information. Nancy Barr, 506 Windermere Avenue, Interlaken, NJ 07712.

DUE TO A SEVERE LACK OF MATERIAL, publication of my letterzine, "Perspective", will be suspended indefinitely. Promises are just not enough and it's a shame that something as valuable to fandom as a letterzine must be shelved due to lack of contributions. Anyone interested in keeping "Perspective" afloat, please send your letters, articles, poetry, ads, fanzine reviews (on any fannish subject) to Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th

Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219. Issue #2 still available for \$2.00.

FOR SALE--extensive SW collection of long time SW fan. Some zines, many pre-TESB toys, magazines and SW and Harrison Ford photos. Legal sized, double stamped SASE for available lists to: Lisa Adolf, 2804 Kitsap Way, Suite 203, Bremerton, WA 98312.

FOR SALE: British T.V. Annuals relating to many different fandoms such as BT, DW, ST, S&H, S&S, Professionals, TP, etc. Also British paperbacks, and British and American zines and magazines. Legal-size SASE for list. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

HELP! I need a VHS copy of THE INNOCENTS, a movie starring Deborah Kerr made from the novel, THE TURN OF THE SCREW. I will provide cassette and postage. Please help me to placate a husband who is threatening to dismantle my VCR if I don't find him a copy. Kate Birkel, 2326 S. 12th St., Omaha, NE 68108.

HF COLLECTORS--I need your help! I am looking for early, obscure TV and movie roles by Harrison, in particular THE TRIAL OF LT. WILLIAM CALLEY and THE INTRUDERS, plus any TV shows he guest-starred in. VHS format. Maybe I have something you're looking for. Will gladly trade. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

I AM LOOKING to buy the following zines: FAR REALMS #1-2, GUARDIAN #1-3, SKYWALKER #1-4, and A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #1. If anyone can help, please write to me. Lisa Thomas, 7606 Lady St., Charleston, SC 29418.

I AM OFFERING fair, honest zine reviews in return for free or postage-only copies. Will accept defective copies and will provide copy of review before publication. Am also offering experienced, complete proofreading in return for contrib copy. Sandra Necchi, 4835 Cedar Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143.

I AM WISHING TO BUY STAR WARS zines. If you have any you are willing to sell, please send price you are asking, title and condition to Sheryl Herrly, 2330 North Evergreen, Phoenix, AZ 85006.

IS THERE ANYONE INTERESTED in writing for a zine based on the cartoon show "Dungeons and Dragons"? Please send your stories and illos to Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219. Contributions only at this time. Thanks.

MIAMI VICE Stationery for sale. Original art by Suzy Sansom. 25 sheets in assorted colors only \$5 post paid. Also available: Indiana Jones, SW. Please SASE for flyer. Available from Suzy Sansom, 376 Granada Dr., So. San Francisco, CA 94080.

SALE--includes zines (SW and ST), posters, Japanese photo magazines, comics, Remington Steele photos, artwork, lobby card sets, and more other miscellaneous junkie than you can shake a lightsabre at! For list, SASE Pat Nussman, 2 J Breezy Tree Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

STAR TREK SLIDES--Set of 20 for \$15. All episodes, all characters. Individually--\$1.00 each, minimum 5 slides. SASE Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smith-

line, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

STILL PLAYING CATCH-UP? With the editors' permission, we offer photocopies of the following zines: ARCHAEOLOGY 101, EMPIRE REVIEW, KESSEL RUN, CROSSED SABERS, FACETS, MOS EISLEY CHRONICLE, DOCKING BAY, FAR REALMS, TREMOR IN THE FORCE #1 and #2. Editors inquiries welcomed. SASE for flyer. De-Van Press, 1108 Pepper Dr., Madisonville, KY 42431.

WANTED: Copies of "Falcon's Flight" #2, 4, 5 & 6. Willing to pay a reasonable amount for them. I hope someone can help me in SW zine world. Want to complete my set. Fran Husejinovic, 1722 Decatur St., Ridgewood, NY 11385.

WANTED: Some highly organized person to write episode guides composed of Air Dates, Titles, and brief Synopses of any current TV program of fan interest for those of us videophiles who have been woefully unorganized. Examples: A-Team, Airwolf, Doctor Who, Knight Rider, Remington Steele, et al. In case of duplication, only most complete listings will be printed. Partial lists accepted. PERSPECTIVE, Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

WANTED: Artists for ALL THAT JAZZ, the all A-Team zine. Please send examples of your work along with SASE to: ALL THAT JAZZ, Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

ZINE SALE: Vintage STAR TREK collection, mainly from mid-70's such as "Spock Enslaved", "Kraith Collected", etc. SASE for price list to Sharon R. Saye, 124 Davis St., Apt. A, Bridgeport, WV 26330.

ZINE SALE: Many out of print. Misc. SW stuff for sale. SASE for list. Thekla Kurth, 851 N. Pheasantbrook Cir., Centerville, UT 84014.

ZINE SALE--SW & ST, many out of print zines: SKYWALKER, FAR REALMS, KESSEL RUN. SASE for list. Lou Ann Patrie, 2718 LaFeuille Cir., Apt. 5, Cincinnati, OH 45211.

ZINE SALE--Over 50 zines! Mostly SW and Raiders--some media. All zines are originals, none are photocopies. All are in excellent to mint condition

with front and back covers intact. First come, first served. Prompt service. SASE for price, complete listing of zines and availability. Zines include: CIRCLE OF LIGHT, DOCKING BAY, FACETS, FAR REALMS, FLIP OF A COIN, KESSEL RUN, OUTLANDS CHRONICLES, SHADOWSTAR, VISIONS and many more. Reason for selling--too many zines, too little room. Lynda Vandiver, 603 Jones Avenue, Madisonville, KY 42431.

ZINE SALE: Classic out-of-print SW including some TWIN SUNS, SKYWALKER, KESSEL RUN and a bit of vintage ST. SASE for list. Terri Black, 169 S. St. John #199, Pasadena, CA 91129.

ZINE SALE: Over 50 fanzines, mostly SW, including SKYWALKER #1, KESSEL RUN, TWIN SUNS, and many others no longer in print. All zines are in excellent to mint condition. SASE for complete price list to K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

3-1/2 x 5 PHOTOS--Harrison Ford color photos from Letterman, Conversation, Graffiti, Dan August, Getting Straight. Also Dirk Benedict from the Alan Thicke Show. All photographs are clear and sharp! Excellent artist's reference. Jon-Eric Hexum from Voyagers, Cover-up (several sets). SASE for price flyer. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

1987 STAR WARS CALENDAR featuring artwork by some of fandom's best artists. Cargill, Dani, Mark Fisher, Melea Fisher, Jenni, Kowalski, Lybarger, Markle, Ronee, Sandi. \$7.00 ppd. Sandi Jones, 629 Dana Court, Naperville, IL 60540.

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